Daily Report

Latin America

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Haiti

Marc Bazin, Haiti's "military-backed" prime minister is ready to "step down" if no positive steps are taken soon to end Haiti's "political crisis," reports Bonaire radio. Bazin said he intends to present a new proposal that "could help put an end to the impasse" between the military leader, Raoul Cedras, and ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. If the proposal fails, Bazin will resign.

El Salvador

The FMLN on 26 November announced on Radio Venceremos that it is "in a state of emergency," in light of the "apparent new crisis" regarding compliance with the peace agreements. AFP reports that the FMLN issued a communique calling on its fighters "to be on a state of alert in the face of a possible coup d'etat" reportedly being planned by the Salvadoran Armed Forces. The communique, according to San Salvador TV, states that "high-ranking military commanders are preparing a coup d'etat that will reportedly be carried out in the next 48 to 72 hours." President Cristiani rejected the communique, saying the report of an alleged coup is "simply another excuse" created by the FMLN "to justify its failure to demobilize."

Venezuela

International and local media report that a coup d'etat led by the "Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement 200," is currently underway. Fighting has been reported in Caracas and other cities. The rebels took control of the television transmitters and broadcast a recording by MRB leader Hugo Chavez asking for the support of the Venezuelan people. In an interview on Santa Fe de Bogota Radio, President Carlos Andres Perez said "the situation is alarming." He added: "Everything is perfectly normal in the Army and the other military forces, including the Navy. There is a small rebellious group in the Air Force, where a small group of rebel officers managed to occupy the El Libertador Air Base." Local and international media continue to report on ongoing rebel activities in the country.

Union of Latin American Political Parties Founded

PY2411121292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0732 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Cochabamba, Bolivia, 23 Nov (EFE)—The first organization of conservative Latin American political parties has been created in Bolivia with the commitment to defend democracy and the market economy.

Nineteen conservative and liberal [conservative parties supporting liberal economic policies] parties of different countries founded the Union of Latin American Political Parties [Union de Partidos Politicos Latinoamericanos—UPLA] during a meeting held this weekend in Cochabamba. UPLA was created under the Cochabamba Declaration, which was signed by 19 delegates on behalf of their respective parties. The members vow to democratically defend the same political principles, Christian values, and market economy in their respective countries.

The signatory members of the Cochabamba Declaration elected Andres Pastrana Arango, president of the Colombian New Democratic Force (NFD), as the UPLA executive secretary, and approved the regulations of the new international organization.

The Cochabamba meeting was sponsored by the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), which is co-governing Bolivia, and inaugurated by its leader General Hugo Banzer, who is a presidential candidate for the June 1993 elections.

In addition to the signatory UPLA members there were also representatives of European conservative parties as observers like the Popular Party (PP) of Spain, and the Christian Social Union of Germany, which is part of the opposition.

After his election, Pastrana told EFE: "I believe the most important thing is to have obtained an agreement among 19 Latin American political parties and movements around principles that identify us."

According to Pastrana, the main issues included in the Cochabamba Declaration include "the market economy; the dignifying of the family; and the struggle against corruption, drug trafficking, and subversion."

Pastrana said that in the near future UPLA will hold a number of seminars in different Latin American countries on the market economy, ecology, and the struggle against corruption, among other issues. He also announced that the next UPLA meeting will be held in Buenos Aires in 1993.

The Cochabamba Declaration congratulates the Bolivian people for the consolidation of a democratic system, now 10 years old, and also expresses the support of the signatory members for General Hugo Banzer as one of the promoters of democracy in Latin America.

The UPLA declaration expressed support for the peace process in El Salvador and the efforts being made by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano in this regard.

The Cochabamba Declaration emphasizes the dignity of human beings, as well as their right to freedom and to a significant destiny. It also recognizes democracy as the only form of political organization and advocates the social market economy as an instrument designed to generate wealth, development, and well-being for all peoples.

The UPLA member parties advocate the defense of the interests of minority communities in each country, the decentralization of power, and the struggle to build societies in which solidarity prevails.

The Cochabamba Declaration vows to guarantee equal opportunities and basic services for everyone under a system in which families will be the main cells of society.

The conservative Latin American parties convey their commitment to work for the integration of their countries as the only way to respond to future political, economic, and social challenges.

Nicaraguan Vice President Urges Demilitarization

PA2511163992 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Nov 92 p 10A

[Article by Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy has said in Panama that armies are going out of style, and he advocated the total demilitarization of the Americas.

Godoy, who is attending the 20th meeting of Central American vice presidents that is being held in Panama City through 25 November, said that the state of the military must be revised and the strengthening of the police organizations must be overseen.

"The era of militarization is over, because there are no more areas to be colonized, because we no longer need to defend our territories as the international community is very diligent in regarding borders, and because the armies of the weak countries are very dependent on the big powers," he explained.

According to Godoy—who was harshly criticized by the military of his country for advocating demilitarization—organizations such as the United Nations have taken over the role that used to be played by the national armies.

As an example, he mentioned the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Husayn's Army in which the United Nations pressured the Iraqis to abandon the invaded territories.

At present in the Americas, only Costa Rica and Panama do not have armies. However, in a recent referendum the Panamanian people overwhelmingly rejected a package of reforms to the National Constitution that included the constitutional elimination of the Army.

Cuba

Further on Reaction to UN Approval of Resolution

Fidel Castro Congratulates Mission

FL2611000992 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has congratulated the Cuban mission to the United Nations and the Cuban Foreign Ministry on the UN General Assembly's approval of the resolution against the U.S. embargo presented by Cuba. Upon learning of the success of the document—entitled "The Need to End the Economic, Trade, and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States Against Cuba"—Fidel said that this result shows that resistance is the way to victory. The document was approved by 59 votes in favor, three against, and 71 abstentions.

Further on Alarcon Comments

FL2611005592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Nov 92

["Excerpts" of news conference by Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada with unidentified correspondents on 25 November on the UN General Assembly vote on the U.S. embargo on Cuba; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Alarcon] This shows that this policy is encountering growing opposition on the part of the international community. I am sure that, regardless of whatever they may or may not do, we can predict that the movement against the embargo against Cuba is destined to grow, spread, deepen, and now with the support of a majority of the governments that are members of the United Nations.

[Correspondent] (?Jesusa) Cervantes, from Mexico: In the near term, how might this resolution affect or how might it help trade relations with other countries?

[Alarcon] Trade relations between countries are determined freely by the countries in question. This is a basic principle of international law in which all nations believe, apparently, except for three, judging by yesterday's vote. Every country will now feel, I think legitimately, better able to do whatever it feels is appropriate—that is, trade with Cuba if it deems it fitting to do so, if such trade is useful to it, if such trade is beneficial to it—while aware that any attempt by the U.S. Government to interfere with such a decision has been clearly rejected by the international community. This means that U.S. [word indistinct], its pressures or measures—which have always been illegal, illegitimate, and in violation of the sovereignty of other nations—would today be so in an even more express manner because the UN General Assembly has said precisely this: such a policy violates legal norms and it must stop. That is not all. The United States must also report on how and when it has taken the steps that the Assembly has decided it should take for it to stop, that is, so the Assembly will receive a report from the secretary general next year saying that the United States has returned to international legality on this point.

I think the effect on trade relations, on exchanges between countries, should be healthy, should be positive. The Assembly has come out clearly and described and defined as illegitimate the attempt to interfere in this activity, which is entirely normal among nations. Therefore, I am sure that it will also be reflected in practical terms.

Alarcon Continues

FL2611031192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Nov 92

["Excerpts" of news conference by Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada with unidentified correspondents in Havana on 25 November on the UN General Assembly vote on the U.S. embargo on Cuba—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your interpretation shows that the other paradox is that Israel, which is developing trade relations with Cuba, voted against.

[Alarcon] First, I do not think that the text was neutral. I think we agree with our U.S. neighbors on this. They reacted in a way that clearly showed their concern that this resolution might be approved. Second, I would like to call your attention to the following: The text of the resolution clearly condemned the efforts and attempts to enforce extraterritorially decisions made by any state. The economic embargo against Cuba is exactly that, a policy that extends beyond U.S. borders. It is an attempt to strangle Cuba economically.

Remember that last year the United States said that this issue should not be debated at the United Nations—they certainly repeated that again this year—because it is not a blockade but an embargo. The United States trades with whomever it wants. The problem is that the United States has the right to trade with whomever it wants, but each country in the world has the same right, and no state has any right to decide with whom others can trade. This is what is called extraterritoriality.

Extraterritoriality is illegal in and of itself since all the legislative, judicial, executive decisions of any state can be enforced within certain territorial limits. All constitutions of the world have an article which defines where the heck a state is located, the longitude and latitude, the geographic limits within which the constitution applies, and therefore the laws and regulations, etc.

[Correspondent] On the other hand, this UN General Assembly vote opens new international conditions for Cuba. Are there indications that the isolation, which it is usually said that the Cuban Government is submerged in on an international level, has been broken?

[Alarcon] We have never really felt isolated. I do not know if the United States feels isolated. if they felt isolated yesterday. Probably not. I am not a specialist on behavioral defects. I have not studied psychology, but I think that the United States has talked a lot about Cuba's isolation, and they have tried to enforce it. However, in enforcing that policy, in trying to implement it, I think it is obvious that those who are isolated are the Americans, the U.S. Government, which yesterday had an opportunity to see this situation reflected clearly.

I am not sure they have realized this; it is possible. I repeat that I am not a psychologist, but in our case, we could not feel isolated either, in rational, normal conditions when, despite how difficult one would think it would be in today's world to obtain the approval of a resolution like the one approved yesterday, one looks at the votes and thinks of the difference there is between today's world and what could have happened several years ago, if a socialist community—shall we say—had existed. There could have been a number of votes which were not present today, with the honorable exception of Ukraine. However, what is certain is that we are convinced that we have interpreted reality better when we think that our position, our policy, has a degree of understanding, and even support. Frankly, we would have to be completely crazy to feel isolated.

I do not think that if they think they have unlimited power, if they do not realize that exactly on some issues, like this one, they are the ones who are isolated, they are making a grave mistake.

[Correspondent] Minister, you reiterated in a recent interview Cuba's willingness to talk with the U.S. Government on equal terms. Moreover, it is said that Mr. Wayne Smith is in Havana on a mediation trip on behalf of the future Clinton administration. Can you comment on this?

[Alarcon] With regard to the first question, Cuba has always been willing to converse, discuss, have dealings with any government based on strict respect for the principles that are....[pauses] They are not Cuban inventions, they are the very foundation of international order of the sovereign equality of states, national independence, sovereignty—that is, on the basis of equality, as you said. On this basis, anyone can talk, and on a different basis, no one can talk. Really, there is nothing to discuss or negotiate between unequal parties.

This is the way the imperialists try to treat others, with impositions, hegemony, and disregard for these basic legal principles. However, on the basis of these principles, and only on this basis, Cuba would be and has always been willing to discuss its differences with any foreign state.

I think that Wayne Smith has already returned to the United States. I should say that I do not think he is undertaking any negotiations on behalf of any administration, neither the current nor the future one.

Calls Blockade 'a Gypsy Curse'

PY2511224692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 25 Nov 92

[By Marisol Marin]

[Text] Havana, 25 November (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon today warned that the blockade against Cuba will hang over the United States like "a Gypsy curse" because the Cuban Government will not resign itself to the resolution the UN General Assembly issued on 24 November.

During a crowded news conference, Alarcon said: "Cuba will continue to struggle in international forums, but I do not want to give more details, in order to let U.S. politicians use their reaction capacity."

Alarcon, who expressed his "deep satisfaction with this broad majority vote," emphasized that the future U.S. administration now has an opportunity and a challenge."

He added: "The United States now should decide whether to abide by or ignore the resolution, but, anyway, this decision will not pass unnoticed because in 12 months the UN secretary general should write a report on the resolution's fulfillment."

The resolution, which was approved by 59 votes, three opposing votes (United States, Romania, and Israel), and 71 abstentions, made no reference to either the United States or the "Torricelli Law," but it called upon all states "to refrain from promulgating measures designed to broaden and strengthen the economic blockade of Cuba."

This is the first time that Cuba has managed to obtain a UN resolution against the blockade—which was imposed three decades ago—despite the fact that Cuba proposed a resolution last year, but U.S. pressure on other countries made its approval very difficult.

Alarcon said that "even though we are accustomed to seeing the United States disregarding the rules of international law," responsibility for compliance with this resolution will rest, almost entirely, on the Democratic administration, "which has the advantage of knowing the international community's feelings on the subject."

The Cuban minister was extremely cautious regarding the possibility of improving relations with the future U.S. administration, reiterating that Cuba is willing to "debate with any government on the basis of respect and full, complete equality."

Alarcon said the vote would not have been too different if Bush had been reelected. "In fact," he said, "I believe Bush has contributed to this result" because the Torricelli Law "is an offense against all mankind and has made many countries reject it."

He added that "not even those who abstained did what the United States expected, because they were decent enough to avoid rejecting the Cuban proposal." The

minister also praised the favorable votes by Spain and France "because they reflect courage and dignity."

He emphasized that the resolution opposed, above all, the claim to attach validity to the new U.S. measures outside U.S. territory, "and even though the United States is still powerful and can influence and threaten many countries, the wish to play a predominant role has a limit, even today."

Alarcon predicted that the U.S. administration again will test its capacity to exercise pressure in the next few days, when the UN special envoy will submit his report on the Cuban human rights record.

Alarcon said: "The report is full of lies and inaccuracies and, in addition, it is part of a discriminatory, groundless campaign."

"The great accuser," he said, alluding to the United States, "is the most obstinate and rude violator of the human rights of millions of people in its own territory and in other countries, like Cuba, where this violation has been flagrant and systematic to the point of denying us the possibility of buying medicine and food."

After the news conference, Alarcon addressed hundreds of people who applauded him as he left the building. He told them: "We are feeling justly jubilant because the decency and national dignity of several small countries have won a victory."

GRANMA Comments

FL2611200392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[26 November GRANMA editorial: "The Victory of Principles"]

[Text] A new date has been proudly entered into the rich history of the Cuban people's struggle to defend national sovereignty, independence, and universal principles: 24 November 1992. The UN General Assembly resolution entitled "The Need To Put an End to the Economic, Commercial, and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States Against Cuba" will also be remembered as bringing the United States up short on the political and diplomatic terrain regarding its hegemonic and arrogant behavior against our country and toward the world.

The most reactionary of the positions have suffered three setbacks in the last few weeks. The first and most resounding of these setbacks was the sharp rejection expressed at the polls by the American people themselves of the jarring policies that have made victims of large portions of the U.S. population.

Protagonists in the second setback were the moral reserves of that same population, which, embodied in the caravan of solidarity organized by the Pastors for Peace, has been able to untangle the thick web of lies, slander, and demagogy fabricated during the course of more than three decades of hostility, thereby proving that Lincoln was right: They will indeed not be able to fool all of the—national and international—people all of the time. Through bold step after bold step, the Pastors for Peace have breached a gap of great moral importance in the wall the embargo constitutes. The Venceremos and Antonio Maceo Brigades were forerunners of this brave and noble action.

Now the third consecutive failure comes to them via the raised arms of 59 countries which, in the full light of day in the UN plenary session, exercised with dignity their right to vote and voted in favor of the Cuban draft resolution. Two timid hands joined in with Washington, while 71 representatives chose to abstain, and a large group chose to be absent, thereby avoiding taking a stand against Cuba. Under the enormous pressures applied by the United States, these abstentions and absences actually expressed a rejection of the embargo.

In this political and diplomatic defeat, the point is not to humiliate an adversary, but rather to make justice prevail. Without a doubt, what has constituted the victory has been the triumph of the prominence of international law and the sovereignty of nations—nations that, overriding interests peculiar to a great power, reject a policy that tends to exert all kinds of pressures on, and even exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction over, other nations.

It was not the bilateral Cuban-U.S. disagreement—as the Yankee representative tried to make it seem—that was under discussion there. The clear message was, rather, that the world is not prepared to allow anyone to make it a vassal with impunity. In this case, they received no support whatsoever from either Latin America, Africa, or Asia. A single European country and a single Middle Eastern country stood at their side. Their traditional allies kept their distance. The EEC abstained en bloc, except for France and Spain, which voted explicitly in favor of the resolution. Canada and Mexico, signers of the free-trade treaty, also took the position dictated to them by their independent consciences.

The yankee government was concerned. In a vulgar and unethical manner, it circulated, prior to the voting, a text meant to intimidate—the content of which we learned about before the vote, thanks to friendly hands. This text warned people not to vote in favor of the resolution sponsored by Cuba, and reasoned that the UN is not the proper forum for discussion of its attempt to subdue a population of almost 11 million people through hunger.

With the most brazen of lies, this document affirms that the embargo does not affect our population in terms of either medicines or medical care. This imperial ultimatum formally warns that to discuss the embargo would create a climate of animosity and confrontation: In conclusion, we urge you not to support this Cuban initiative.

It is true that this vote does not abolish the embargo, although it does constitute a hard moral and political blow to those who have imposed this embargo for over 30 years, and a sound denial of the affirmations of those

who, from within the U.S. Government, speak of Cuba's isolation. Who is it that has really ended up isolated? Very much to the contrary, our country's recent election to membership in Ecosoc [United Nations Economic and Social Council] by more than 100 votes, and the spectacular results of this vote on the just Cuban draft resolution against the embargo show that Cuba's prestige and moral authority are growing.

The world is slowly beginning to shake itself awake, recognizing the danger of unipolarity governed by the United States. The U.S. role as universal policeman is beginning to be questioned; and the possibility of finding oneself a prisoner in one of its jails, regardless of one's place of birth, increasingly worries nations.

Twenty-three of the 59 countries that supported the Cuban draft resolution also decided to state their reasons aloud. Each of these speakers was applauded. Only one speaker argued against the resolution, using the well-known rhetoric: Washington's representative. His words were followed by silence.

When they formulated the document presented, our diplomats did so in a thoughtful, mature, careful, and flexible manner. They acted calmly and put into the document [encamaron en el] not only the Cuban interests that have been attacked, but also the perceptions of the community of nations represented at that forum.

The Cuban people have reasons for feeling gay, confident, and happy that are more than justified—because a just position, one maintained without abandoning one's principles, has triumphed; and because this has been a victory of the principles espoused by a small and heroic country that waged its fight with dignity at a moment when, some time ago, the socialist camp and the USSR have already disappeared.

A long, hard struggle remains to be waged, but the wind and the climate remain on our side. Our sails are swelling, and we are moving forward across a sea of difficulties, which we will be able to cross without pessimism, convinced that we are carrying forward a banner worth fighting for to the last breath.

Support for Cuba is growing, and swells of solidarity continue to reach our shores. As Fidel wrote in his message to our UN representatives: The path to victory lies in resisting, and our people will succeed in resisting and triumphing.

Contreras Comments

FL2511190192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Nov 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras—monitored in progress]

[Text] .... today highlights that at the United Nations yesterday, Cuba won one of its greatest diplomatic, and therefore political, victories against the United States, when the draft resolution, "The Need To Put an End to the Economic, Commercial, and Financial Embargo Being Imposed on Us by the U.S. Government" the draft resolution's title, was approved by no fewer than 59 votes in favor, and only three against—the United States, backed by Israel and Romania, with 71 understandable abstentions.

If one takes into account the enormous pressures of all kinds that the United States brings to bear against those who oppose it in international forums; and gives the proper weight to the fact that even allies of Washington opposed the resolution and that even countries that do not entertain diplomatic relations with our country supported us with their vote, the true, historic, scope of this vote cast by the UN General Assembly can be assessed.

At the twilight of his career, the defeated President Bush thus racks up one of the greatest failures in terms of his policy of obsessive aggressiveness toward the Cuban Revolution. Is a nation with support such as this from the international community a country that is isolated, as Bush had claimed? The friendliness, respect, and affection Cuba arouses among the peoples of the world through its valiant example has once again been made evident, at the United Nations. We must highlight the fact that not a single Latin American or Caribbean country opposed the Cuban draft resolution. On the contrary! Nor can anyone overlook the fact that Canada, the United States' number one partner in the free-trade treaty, also approved the Cuban draft resolution, as did Spain and France, which are EC member countries. The other 10 EC member countries abstained, but not one opposed the resolution.

The point is that at the heart of the debate raised by Cuba at the United Nations lies not only the defense of our principles and legitimate interests as a country that has suffered under three decades of embargo, but also the essential principles of the UN charter, international law, and the clear rejection of the right of any government, regardless of its power, to impose its laws outside its borders, as if the rest of the world were made up of second-class nations, or as if we were back in the time of the Roman Empire. During this time of crises, the whole world needs to increase trade, and to do so in accordance with the law and existing legislation. What country can accept a foreign government's dictating rules of conduct governing its trade relations? What country with any sense of decorum and dignity can remain impassive in the face of such riding roughshod over its sovereignty?

The overwhelmingly majority vote that Cuba received at the United Nations—reflecting the resounding failure of the Bush administration, which was supported only by its satellite-client Israel and by a weakened government such as Romania's—also constitutes a clear message, not for a political cadaver like Bush, but for the new U.S. administration elected on 3 November. The president-elect of the United States received the support of the electorate by offering change, which that society obviously needs. Last night's message at the United Nations is also a call for change, a serene call to respect the

international community, its legitimate rights, and the inviolability of its sovereign prerogatives.

This is not a time for praetors, nor a time during which one can abuse with impunity the rights and legitimate interests of the international community.

Russian Claims U.S. Pressure To Alienate Cuba

PA2611041092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1552 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Moscow, 25 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Viktor Volskiy, director of the Russian Institute for Latin America, said here on 25 November that the United States is pressuring the Kremlin to force its alienation from the Cuban regime headed by President Fidel Castro. "The United States has pressured the Russian Government with its promises for economic aid into modifying its relations with Cuba," Volskiy said in a statement to NOTIMEX.

As an example of that pressure, Volskiy noted the unilateral and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from Cuba, which was carried out although the United States maintains its military presence at the Guantanamo Military Base.

Moscow and Havana agreed in October to complete the withdrawal of the Russian Military Instruction Brigade by the end of 1992. The Military Instruction Brigade is formed by 3,000 soldiers and was stationed in Cuba for almost 30 years.

Volskiy said the United States has also pressured Russia to dismantle the radio electric station installed in Cuba, which has served as a center for gathering information on the American Continent.

However, the academic said these pressures have had no effect yet because persons close to President Boris Yeltsin favor maintaining relations with Cuba. "There are people in the government who understand it is not convenient to lose positions in Cuba where we have strategic interests," said Volskiy.

Yuriy Petrov, former ambassador from the disintegrated Soviet Union to Cuba and current director of the Russian presidential office, is regarded as the main figure in this pro-Cuban circle.

Over more than 30 years, Cuba received from the former Soviet Union an important flow of economic and military aid that was vital for the survival of the socialist regime on the island. "We invested so much in these relations that we should maintain them," added Volskiy.

The academic spoke out for maintaining friendly relations with Fidel Castro's regime and with those of all other countries of socialist inclination. The expert asked himself: "If we are seeking a relationship with the PRC, why should we sacrifice the one we have with Cuba?"

Volskiy believes that the fact that socialism failed in the former Soviet Union does not mean the path has been wrong for Cuba. "Neither the United States nor Russia has the right to deprive Cuba of its social experiments," the expert said.

Haiti

Bazin To 'Step Down' if Crisis Not Resolved

FL2611125092 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Haiti's military-backed prime minister says he is ready to step down if no positive steps are taken soon to end Haiti's political crisis. Prime Minister Marc Bazin, who has been in office since June, says he will present a new proposal that could help put an end to the impasse between the military leader, Raoul Cedras, and ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He gave no details of the proposal, but said he will resign if it fails.

De Ronceray on Bazin's Call to Convene Assembly

FL2511215992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] The Mobilization for National Development Party, MDN, voices its concern following Prime Minister Bazin's decision to convene the National Assembly in an extraordinary session. Are we facing a transformation which has not yet declared itself, exclaimed Hubert de Ronceray. The MDN leader invites the parliamentarians to make a decision that stands in the face of such a violation of the Constitution. He also renewed his call for the return to Article 149 of the Constitution which provides for the Supreme Court president to be provisional president and the holding of presidential elections within 90 days.

[Begin De Ronceray recording] We, at the MDN have been very surprised by this statement which left us sort of perplexed, because we know that Marc Bazin is the prime minister and not the president of the Republic. Article 105 of the Constitution is clear enough on that question. The Constitution stipulates that in the interval of ordinary sessions and in a case of emergency, the president of the Republic can convene the legislative body in an extraordinary session. Therefore, we are really very surprised by Mr. Bazin's attitude. We are wondering what is happening. Are we finally in the state of transformation which has not perhaps clearly and openly expressed itself? Therefore, the MDN thinks that the situation is extremely distracting, a very serious situation and we really dread the worst in this sudden revival of the crisis. [end recording]

ACP Deputies To Meet Prior To National Assembly

FL2511174292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Following the convocation for extraordinary session scheduled for today, 25 November, all Alliance for

Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] deputies have been invited to participate in an extremely important meeting at the diplomatic lounge of the Chamber of Deputies. This is signed by Pierre Simon Georges.

It is then requested that all ACP deputies participate in an important meeting at around 1500 GMT this morning, before the national assembly begins.

Assembly Reaches Quorum; Members to CEP Named

FL2511223392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Report by correspondent Rothschild Francois—live]

[Text] The national assembly of Haitian parliamentarians is scheduled to start in a few minutes. At least 42 deputies are present as well as a significant number of senators so as to obtain the necessary quorum for the opening of this session in national assembly. The prime minister of the consensus government, Marc Bazin, convened the assembly to choose the members of the Permanent Electoral Council.

[Francois] Good evening ladies and gentlemen. The session in national assembly must start in a few minutes here at the parliament. A quorum at the Chamber of Deputies has been reached. At the Senate, the quorum appears to have been met in order to start this session in national assembly. The parliamentarians must choose their representatives on the Permanent Electoral Council which is in charge of organizing the elections. The first election will be the senatorial elections for the renewal of nine senators.

Let us point out that according to a close source to the Supreme Court, the Court basically delegated its members for the Permanent Electoral Council. They are Joseph Ducheine for the West Department; Baltazar (Saint-Fard) for the Southwest Department, and Michel Sylvain for the Northwest Department. This close source to the Supreme Court pointed out that a letter signed by President Emile Jonassaint has been sent to the cabinet of the consensus government.

Avril's 'Baffling Bid' To Return From Exile Noted

FL2711011792 Bridgetown CANA in English 2254 GMT 26 Nov 92

[From CANA's news broadcast summary for Friday, 27 November]

[Text] A baffling bid by a former military dictator to return from exile in Florida has left Haitians speculating about an abortive coup plot. It has also drawn fresh attention to splits in the faction-ridden Army.

Wearing a business suit, accompanied by his wife and one of his sons, General Prosper Avril arrived unannounced on Tuesday [24 September] in Port-au-Prince on a flight from Miami asking to be readmitted after 32 months in exile.

It was Avril's departure in March 1990 that paved the way for the election in December that year of popular, left-wing president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in turn by a military coup in September 1991.

Sceptics say Avril has so many personal foes in the current ruling military faction led by Army chief General Raoul Cedras that he must have known his request was doomed unless his own allies inside the Army staged a show of force.

Martinique and Guadeloupe

Growers Dump Bananas, Close Airports, Roads

FL2511192592 Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 25, CANA—Martinique and Guadeloupe on Wednesday [25 November] remained in the grip of a protest by angry banana growers. On Tuesday, thousands of persons, complaining that their livelihood was threatened by a possible cut in the quota of bananas France takes from the islands, dumped tons of fruit to block the airports and major roads. On Wednesday commercial places as well as the airports remained closed.

Juliette Satton, a radio journalist in Guadeloupe, told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) by telephone, that flights in and out of the country had been suspended since Monday, when the farmers began their action. The protest by the farmers, members of the co-operative group, "Sica - Asoba," comes amidst concern across the Caribbean about the possibility of preferential treatment of traditional fruit exporters being eroded when Europe launches its single market next year.

Martinique and Guadeloupe—French overseas departments—have favoured treatment on the French market. The French islands farmers are supportive of the English-speaking Caribbean banana producers, who are seeking continued preferential treatement for the sale of their commodity. The position of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) states is being challenged by the Latin American producers of the so-called cheaper "dollar fruit" who want a free-trade regime in Europe. Satton said that the farmers had blocked the runway at the airports, as well as key roads leading in and out of the cities.

"On the first day, the two major towns, Pointe-a-Pitre and Basse-Terre, had closed down. All the supermarkets and stores were closed. But from yesterday some were opening—except the oil terminals on the island," she said. "All the four oil terminals are closed and a number

of drivers are already running out of fuel, and life here is becoming very slow," she added.

"The situation is the same in Martinique; the television pictures shown here (of developments in Martinique) are similar to what is happening in Guadeloupe. So far the action has been very common in both islands," Satton told CANA. Satton said the island's private sector had issued a statement condemning the road blocks. The farmers had responded by saying that a collapse of the banana industry could spell disaster for the entire country.

"The chamber said that they can't tolerate any blockade on the major roads," Satton told CANA. Satton said that the police on the islands were not "even attempting to break up the blockades."

Guadeloupe Farmers End Protest

FL2711004492 Bridgetown CANA in English 2213 GMT 26 Nov 92

[By Juliette Satton]

[Text] Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe, Nov 26, CANA—Life was slowly returning to normal here on Thursday [26 Nov], after farmers began removing blockades set up at major roads and the airport earlier this week. The farmers' protest action, which severely disrupted life on this French Caribbean island, followed what they saw as threats to their livelihood by a possible cut in the quota of bananas France takes from its Caribbean dependencies.

The decision to end the strike followed a meeting in Paris on Thursday, of the council of ministers chaired by Jean Louis Le Pensec, minister responsible for overseas territories, at which the banana situation was discussed. Le Pensec told reporters that France had asked the European Commission to implement a safeguard clause on Cameroon and Ivory Coast bananas under the Lome Convention, which governs EC trade with African, Caribbean, and Pacific nations. Under the safeguard clause, Cameroon and Ivory Coast bananas would effectively be excluded from France by a system of import licences, an official said.

The head of the coordinating committee of Sica-Asoba, the farmers cooperative here, Emmanuel Lognas, appeared on television announcing the end of the protest action. He said that while his group had not yet received a written confirmation of the position adopted by Paris, it was convinced that the new measures announced would be implemented. Television showed the blockade at the airport was being removed, with some persons speculating that the roadblocks would be removed within the next few hours.

Government Reaffirms Support for Cuba

PA2511141092 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Nov 92

[By NOTIMEX correspondent Ricardo Alday]

[Excerpts] Mexico has reaffirmed before the UN General Assembly the firmness of its foreign policy and supported Cuba in the UN rejection of the U.S. Torricelli Law. [passage omitted]

In the debate prior to the adoption of the resolution, Jorge Montano, Mexican ambassador to the United Nations, emphasized that it is the exclusive right of the Mexican Government, in full exercise of its sovereignty, to decide with whom and how it will carry out trade relations.

Montano added that Mexico will always firmly reject any attempt to apply foreign legislation on Mexican territory. He emphasized that just as it freely decides on its foreign policy, Mexico has also clearly established that trade and exchange activities by Mexican companies or companies established in Mexico are ruled, and will continue to be ruled, by Mexican laws.

The adoption of the UN resolution is considered a Cuban diplomatic victory over the United States. It marks a 180-degree turn in the way the Cuban issue is received at the international organization as opposed to just one year ago. According to the diplomats, the change is due to the issuance of the Torricelli Law.

Further on Cuban Support

PA2511144992 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2124 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Excerpt] New York, 23 Nov (NOTIMEX) [dateline as received]—At the United Nations on 24 November, Mexico emphasized the firmness of its foreign policy principles and support for Cuba regarding the UN rejection of the extraterritoriality of the Torricelli Law.

"It is up to the Mexican Government, and it alone, in the full exercise of its sovereignty, to determine with which country Mexico will hold commercial relations and related activities," Jorge Montano, Mexican ambassador to the United Nations, pointed out at the plenum of the UN General Assembly on 24 November.

He added: "Mexico will always firmly reject all attempts to apply in its territory the laws of another country."

"Whenever a country has attempted to extend the application of its laws to trade with other countries, we have labeled such attempts as violations of the principles of international law, particularly non-intervention," Montano said.

By majority, the UN General Assembly on 24 November passed a resolution, presented by the Cuban delegation, condemning the extraterritoriality of the so-called Torricelli Law with which the U.S. Government reinforced its embargo against Cuba last month.

Fifty delegates voted yes, three—the United States, Romania, and Israel—voted no, and 71 abstained. This symbolizes the international community's rejection of one aspect of the economic blockade that Washington has been applying against Cuba for the past 32 years.

The Torricelli Law, approved by the U.S. Congress on 6 August and ratified by President George Bush one month ago, hardened the blockade by threatening to apply penalties on any subsidiaries of U.S. corporations abroad that make commercial or financial operations with Cuba.

"The decision of one state to establish commercial relations with another is an expression of the first state's sovereignty and, consequently, this decision is not subordinated to the will of third countries," the Mexican diplomat said.

Montano said Mexico's foreign policy is based on the conviction that respect for law is the best assurance of peace. "Sovereign equality, self-determination, and noninterference of one state in another state's affairs," are fundamental pillars of this conviction, he said. [passage omitted]

Russian Official on Trade with Latin America

PA2611133492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1632 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Mexico in early 1993, as one of the legs of a tour he will make of several countries, a spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed on 25 November.

Gennadiy Korochkin, chief of the Mexico and Central America Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told NOTIMEX that the Russian president is especially interested in strengthening trade relations with Latin American countries.

It is possible that during the first six months of 1993 the Russian and Mexican foreign ministers may exchange visits, with the purpose of defining among other things the date of the visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the Mexican capital, according to Korochkin.

Mexican diplomats in Moscow confirmed to NOTIMEX that there is a standing invitation for Boris Yeltsin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to visit Mexico at a still undetermined date, but which is expected to take place during the first half of 1993.

Russia views with "good prospects" the future of political economic relations with Latin American countries, in view of the similarity of problems confronted in aspects including free markets, foreign investments, and state organization.

Russia is in a position where it can exchange experience with Latin American nations on cultural and scientific issues, and cooperate in oil-drilling operations, for the experience of those countries in agricultural development.

Korochkin termed "excellent" the level of political relations between Mexico and Russia, but noted that the trade level "is insufficient."

Sergey Filatov, vice president of the Russian Parliament, who made a visit to Mexico last month, said that of "the $200 million of annual bilateral trade reported a few years ago, the current level barely reaches $40 million."

As a result of this visit, the Mexican Congress announced on 25 November the creation of the "Mexican-Russian Federation" parliamentary group, to contribute to strengthening friendship and promoting dialogue among legislators of both countries.

Regarding contacts with the rest of Latin American countries, Korochkin noted that Russia maintains diplomatic relations with "the 23 countries of the region through 16 Russian Embassies."

El Salvador and Paraguay were the last countries of the region with which Russia established relations in the past few months and diplomatic ties for the first time in federation history.

The diplomat said that relations with Latin America are passing through "a moment of transition" in light of the disappearance of the Soviet Union.

During this time the Russian Foreign Ministry has revised the legal bases of all agreements among countries of the area and the former USSR—now Russia—in keeping with economic possibilities and state interests.

A new aspect in Russian-Latin American relations noted by the diplomat is "the cooperation of state and private activities through mixed companies in the region."

Latin American countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela have overcome underdevelopment and can be considered "virtually developed," according to Korochkin, who noted that Russia can learn from the experience of those nations.

The Latin American Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry has 60 officials and career diplomats, most of whom have worked in Latin American countries.

Korochkin was political adviser of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico from 1983 to 1988, which aided in his appointment to the Mexico and Central America Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Salinas, German President Discuss Trade

PA2511182592 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Report by Hector Guerrero]

[Text] On 24 November, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and German President Richard von Weizsaecker presided over the work of the plenary meeting of the Mexico-Germany-2,000 Commission and held their second round of private discussions.

During the meeting, Ernesto (Barnhoks), president of Industrial Corporation (?Adelantos) de Mexico, stated that the work done by that commission will permit them to draft a document within the next few months listing the opportunities and obstacles to exchange in areas of interest to both countries. This will be key in promoting interregional relations.

Later, the German president said in a news conference that his country and Mexico should be the bridges and promoters in their respective continents to create a free trade market.

[Begin von Weizsaecker recording, in German with simultaneous translation in Spanish] Both countries strongly believe that we need free world trade. Both countries advocate successful completion of the Uruguayan round of negotiations.

The regional pacts that have been concluded should not be aimed at creating isolated areas, but on the contrary, they should be aimed at contributing to the network of international cooperation. [end recording]

Later, the German president visited the National Anthropology Museum, where he was briefed on the life and customs of the pre-Colombian indigenous cultures. At the end of his visit, he signed the book of distinguished guests and received a replica of a (Zozonaca) head.

During the evening, the German president and President Carlos Salinas de Gortari attended a concert by the Bamberg Symphonic Orchestra at the Fine Arts Palace.

El Salvador

FMLN Declares Itself in 'State of Emergency'

PA2611225292 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command and Political Committee have announced they are in a state of emergency in view of the apparent start of a new crisis regarding compliance with the peace agreements. An FMLN spokesman explained that because of the differences on the rescheduling of the peace agreements signed last January, the FMLN declared itself in a state of emergency to be prepared for any negotiation or political discussion, according to local radio stations.

FMLN leader Jorge Shafik Handal said the decision to suspend the demobilization was made because the government has dragged its feet in guaranteeing the residents of former strife-torn areas that they will not be evicted. The former guerrillas also noted that programs to train demoblized former fighters have not been designed or have not worked out.

Warns of Possible Armed Forces 'Coup'

PA2711015992 Paris AFP in Spanish 0014 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Nov (AFP)—The Salvadoran guerrillas issued a communique on the evening of 26 November, calling on its fighters and supporters to be on a state of alert in the face of a possible "coup d'etat," which, according to its information, is being planned by the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

"The latest reports say that a coup d'etat is being plotted, and it is to be executed within the next 48 to 72 hours," stated the communique by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Cristiani Denies Military 'Coup' Plan

PA2711034792 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] issued an appeal to all its rank and file, sympathizers, and people in general, urging them to remain alert concerning a coup d'etat reportedly being planned by the Armed Forces.

A communique from the FMLN says high-ranking military commanders are preparing a coup d'etat that will reportedly be carried out in the next 48 to 72 hours to prevent the Army purge and the implementation of the peace accords.

The coup would reportedly include attacks on the political opposition and democratic groups in the country. The communique from the FMLN issues an appeal to democratic civilian groups and the Armed Forces, urging them to reject this type of action, which endangers the peace process and the country's tranquillity.

Moreover, President Alfredo Cristiani said minutes ago this report about an alleged coup d'etat is a rumor created by the FMLN to justify its failure to demobilize.

The president was surprised by the communique circulated by the FMLN announcing another coup in a matter of hours sponsored by high-ranking Army officers. Cristiani clearly stated this is simply another rumor spread by the FMLN, which is trying to divert national and international attention given its latest decision not to demobilize the remaining 20 percent of its forces.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] I have nothing to say. This is simply another excuse to continue without carrying out demobilization.

[Villareal] Why do you say this?

[Cristiani] There are absolutely no signs. I believe the FMLN has been trying to spread rumors, lies, and excuses to stop its demobilization. I said late in October the FMLN must now prove to the Salvadoran people that it really wants peace. [end recording]

Cristiani added the Armed Forces is an institution that has endorsed the peace process, so he feels supported by the military high command.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The Armed Forces have proved to the whole world the support it has given to the peace process and it has continued to comply with the accords. We have nothing to say, except to emphasize the professionalism, nationalism, and patriotism the Armed Forces has dedicated to its country. [end recording]

President Cristiani, members of his cabinet, and San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol attended the inauguration of a Marian Eucharistic Congress held at the Flor Blance Stadium.

Land Decree Establishes New Land Guarantees

PA2711045692 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by National Assembly correspondent Hilda Quijano—live]

[Text] A few minutes ago, the Legislative Assembly approved a special decree establishing legal guarantees for approximately 25,000 persons who hold land in formerly conflict-ridden areas of the country. The law will be in effect for 60 days and orders judges to suspend all displacement processes against the peasants settled on lands they do not own.

Although the decree had unanimous support and was approved, some concern was stated in light of the possibility that the case of the lands will not be solved in the

two-month term or that the number of people holding land exceeds the 25,000-person limit stated by the UN proposal on land.

Meanwhile, observers say that, with the approval of this law, there will be no excuse for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to fail to uphold its part of the agreements.

We must remember that the FMLN decided to suspend the demobilization of the rest of its fourth contingent of men, saying that there are no legal guarantees to prevent the displacement of landholders in the country's formerly conflict-ridden areas.

FMLN Leaders on Efforts To Prevent New Crisis

PA2611230892 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Report by Edwin Gongora]

[Text] Leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] have stated that necessary efforts are being made to ensure that parties comply with the latest agreements and prevent a new crisis, which would be more difficult to overcome. During the last few hours the peace process has stumbled onto new obstacles. The FMLN leaders said they are working closely with UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] to try and overcome these difficulties and to make sure that what UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali proposed in October is fulfilled.

[Begin recording] [FMLN Commander Jorge Shafik Handal] The secretary general, we are told, is sending letters on 25 November to the two sides, urging them to overcome this situation, telling the government to comply with its part, and telling us to do our part. This is right. This is what we want. We want to level the situation, to balance it off, so we do not start to accumulate postponed deadlines and unfulfilled requirements that could create a crisis, which would really be difficult to overcome. [end recording]

The FMLN recently decided to call off the destruction of its weapons and the demobilization of its troops, alleging that the government does not offer sufficient guarantees that landholders will not be evicted. FMLN leader Nidia Diaz said this is an essential issue.

[Begin Diaz recording] This is an essential issue. It is the best guarantee no one will be evicted from the conflict-ridden zones. The main concern right now is that, effective 16 January, the government will deploy the Army to guarantee the coffee harvest. On the one hand, it announces this; and, on the other hand, it refuses to give guarantees that no one will be evicted. This is extremely worrisome. [end recording]

Referring to this issue, Shafik Handal said the dissuasive measures the government will launch by sending the Army to the coffee zones have political connotations.

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] It is clear for us. The message this deployment carries is different. It is tantamount to sending the Army to deliver a message to the people—an intimidating message which says more or less the following: See, gentlemen, the FMLN was disarmed but we are still the lords and masters of the situation and the country. This cannot be allowed. [end recording]

Shafik Handal also said all the agreements could be fulfilled by 15 December despite the obstacles. A national reconciliation ceremony could legitimately be carried out among all the groups in the country.

Onusal Chief on Accords Implementation, Deadline

PA2711032792 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Text] Iqbal Riza, chief of the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] mission, asserted on 25 November intensive negotiations are currently being carried out with the two sides to prevent further delays in the accords' implementation and to achieve a definite reconciliation on 15 December. The Onusal chief admitted differences currently prevail between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], adding that these differences will be solved in a matter of days. Hence, 15 December still remains the date on which the cease-fire process will conclude.

[Begin recording] [Riza] We are talking with the two sides. You must bear in mind this is not the first time we have faced these obstacles. This is an extremely complex process. You may recall the situation almost deteriorated into a conflict in the past. We reached a settlement in June, another in August, still another in October, and we will now do so in November.

[Villareal] What are the chances of achieving success with your new efforts? Will the FMLN General Command demobilize its forces or not?

[Riza] I think this will all be complied with by 15 December.

[Villareal] How do you term this phase?

[Riza] Complex. I cannot say it is easy but I am sure it will be solved. [end recording]

It was also learned in this capital that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has issued an appeal to the UN, urging it to cooperate with approximately $85 million—to be used in the third phase of the process to transfer land to former FMLN fighters, Armed Forces fighters, and landowners in conflict-ridden zones. Butrus-Ghali also asked the UN Security Council to extend Onusal's mandate 6 months because its work on verification has been impeccable.

Former Fighters, Soldiers Receive Job Training

PA2511161592 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] The Business Foundation for Educational Development [Fepade] as of 30 November will sponsor a new training program for former fighters of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and former members of the Armed Forces as well as residents of Chalatenango.

Fepade plans to sponsor about 60 vocational courses in the fields of construction, electricity, woodworking, and agriculture to benefit approximately 600 persons.

The vocational courses will be given at the Chalatenango Technological Institute, where institute director Marcial Antonio Pacheco has received equipment and tools worth 33,000 colones.

Report Notes Splits in Christian Democratic Party

PA2611023092 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1802 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Nov (DPA)—El Salvador's Christian Democratic Party [PDC] continues to fall apart. A few weeks ago it experienced an internal split when at least eight deputies of the National Assembly and the Central American Parliament [Parlacen] resigned, holding PDC Secretary General Fidel Chavez Mena responsible for their decision.

The new PDC dissidents, who include party founders and longtime members, feel Chavez Mena is a sick egomaniac who insists on running for president a third time, although he is worn out and lacks political influence.

Chavez Mena dismisses that view and describes the dissidents as resentful individuals who are causing trouble and who have already been expelled. The dissidents include Milagro Azcunaga de Melendez, a candidate in 1989 for mayor of San Salvador; Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, a former foreign minister and current deputy; and Julio Alfredo Samayoa, a former labor and justice minister and current Parlacen deputy.

Samayoa says Chavez Mena is afraid that new PDC leaders may arise, and although he has been asked to reach an agreement to avoid a debacle in the party, he is blind and refuses to listen to arguments. In the past decade Chavez unsuccessfully tried to snatch the presidential candidacy away from Jose Napoleon Duarte, and now he has the backing of four individuals who comprise a ring without a political future, Samayoa adds.

Acevedo Peralta charges that Chavez Mena is worn out and driving the PDC toward extinction, adding that the German Konrad Adenaur Foundation, the sole group that supports Chavez Mena abroad, should take this into consideration, since other European Christian Democrats have withdrawn their aid because he has no political future.

David Trejos and Roberto Meza, two former deputies and ambassadors in Europe, also criticize Chavez Mena's authoritarian, dictatorial, and most of all inept way in which he has handled the PDC in the past years.

A spokesmen for the National Peasant-Worker Unity, the only social force that supports the PDC and receives U.S. backing, admits Chavez Mena has not been the leader an opposition party deserves because of his ties to the country's rightist groups, which have traditionally supported him.

Nicaragua

President Discounts U.S. Remarks on Releasing Aid

PA2611042092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Nov 92 p 14

[By Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Excerpt] President Chamorro was surprised to hear remarks by Deborah De Moss, an aide to Senator Jesse Helms, to the effect that with Arges Sequeira's murder it is less likely the United States will release the $104 million it has been withholding.

"This is the first time I have heard this. I had not heard her say anything for several days and no one mentioned her. She has never headed the U.S. Government, so I give no credence to her remarks. I believe in President Bush and in President-elect Clinton," Chamorro told local reporters.

The president denied having contacted U.S. authorities regarding the Higher Council of Private Enterprise leader's murder. Regarding the funds withheld by Washington since June, Chamorro said "I have never lost my faith in that the aid will come....as long as we do not talk so much." [passage omitted]

FPI Claims Responsibility for Sequeira 'Execution'

PA2611201592 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1842 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Report by Gustavo Vindel from Temerio, Condega, Region One]

[Text] The so-called Leftist Punitive Forces [Fuerzas Punitivas de Izquierda—FPI] on the evening of 25 November circulated a leaflet in Esteli claiming responsibility for Dr. Arges Sequeira's murder. It stated that it was the first step in a long line of executions the people require. It was unofficially reported that two Molotov cocktails exploded at about 0200 [0800 GMT] on 26 November two and a half blocks south of the (Teoldi Clinic). Esteli Police Chief Commander Marco Ruiz denied the report of the two Molotov cocktails.

The FPI communique reads as follows:

We, FPI militants, in keeping with our decision to safeguard rights achieved through revolutionary struggle,

announce the beginning of the end for the people's executioners, politicians who play games with the people's hunger, and inciters who are worsening the domestic crisis. This process will continue inexorably until we achieve true justice with a strong hand.

We will continue the struggle of the Indians against oppression, which seeks to conquer them and which has been modernized by neoliberal executioners, through death sentences against Somozists and their representatives. We report that Arges Sequeira was the first link in a long chain of executions needed in our country to defend the rights that have been taken away from the people.

The execution of Arges Sequeira, a well-know neoliberal and perennial Somozist, is a victory of the people against their oppressors and reflects our combatants' actions. This act shows that two years of clandestine operations have not been in vain, that our organization is a reality, and our struggle will continue until it reaches true freedom and we attain our revolutionary goals.

The FPI communique adds: In keeping with our firm principles and based on our trust in our combatants' revolutionary determination, we announce to Somozists and the people's perennial executioners that we will wage an all-out war and apply revolutionary justice on them regardless of where they might be.

We are not terrorists, but will annihilate the people's executioners as they deserve. Executioners of the people: Your final count has begun. Executioners of the people are those who trying to strip property from the people and those who attempt to steal from the people. Those executioners of the people, namely, Arnoldo Aleman and his lambs, Ramiro Gurdian and his mob of exploiters, (Gilberto Castillo) and his inciters, Pedro Ortega and his ambitions, Jaime Cuadra, (Nardo Sequeira), and many others, are under our watch.

That was a communique issued in Esteli by the so-called FPI. The group closed its communique with a slogan that reads: The strongest leather will yield to the cutting edge of our machetes. The lower part of this communique features a logo consisting of two machetes and a mask of a male mouse or [word indistinct].

FNT Affiliates March, Threaten To Strike

PA2611233792 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] During the 25 November march by Sandinist unions affiliated to the National Workers Front [FNT], the leaders threatened to hold a general strike and said that this was just the beginning. They added that if the government returns several enterprises, which they say belonged to Somozists, they would call for a general strike. Among the enterprises the Sandinists want to keep are a cardboard factory, a match factory, Velmor, (Sulca), and others.

The 25 November march, which began from various points in Managua, was kept under close surveillance by the police and Army due to rumors there could be disturbances and assaults to public and private institutions. Armored personnel carriers were posted opposite banks and public offices. Observers estimated there were about 5,000 marchers. The observers traveled in official vehicles to the meeting place.

At about 1700 [2300 GMT], a meeting began between government delegates headed by Engineer Antonio Lacayo and the FNT. It ended in the early hours of the following morning. It is still not known whether there were any preliminary agreements. The FNT have also expressed interest over the property topic, supporting the position of their bosses, members of the Sandinist directorate, who have said they are unwilling to yield on this point.

The other topics, privatization and salaries, have taken second place.

Panama

Attorney General Cruz Vows Not To Resign

PA2711010692 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 92 p 1a

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno and Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz warned on 25 November that "I will not resign from my position even if I am requested to do so by President Guillermo Endara himself", because "I am doing the country a good service" by trying to end the "corruption" by high-ranking government officials.

Cruz has been charged with corruption by several government officials such as Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena and Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles. However, the attorney general has stated "that is how every criminal describes the investigator who is determined to put him in jail".

The attorney general reiterated that "neither political pressures, newspaper reporters, absurd criminal charges, nor past or future bomb attacks will force him to resign".

Those who are after my resignation do not dare to ask for it, and are therefore pressuring, but they are not going to get it, Cruz pointed out. He added that he will continue working most of all on issues related to government corruption which is most strenuous "because it involves persons who have political and economic leverage, as well as influence over certain media sources."

According to Cruz, "government corruption starts at the comptroller general and goes up to Arosemena. That has been said on numerous occasions".

"The are no reasons to justify my resignation, and least of all at a time when I am doing the country a great

service. I am trying to eliminate corruption by those who are in power, the untouchables, the club of the immune, by all those who have been favored with special permits and who have not yet canceled them," Cruz indicated.

On the other hand, Comptroller General Carles stated that he "does not understand why anytime Cruz has a problem, he resorts to me as his floating raft".

Carles added that "Cruz has the obligation to give an explanation to the community with respect to the charges that have been made against him. I do not have anything to do with the differences between Cruz and the persons who reported his crimes".

In the meantime, the Supreme Court of Justice as a whole is expected to give a final decision today with respect to the conflict between Rogelio Cruz and Jaime Abad, Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] director. The announcement was made by Supreme Court President Carlos Lucas Lopez.

During the past two weeks, the Supreme Court magistrates have met with both parties in an attempt to find a solution to the conflict. Magistrate Lopez explained "we have already listened to both parties, and now it is up to us magistrates to exchange opinions in order to see what decision we are going to make with respect to this issue".

He also pointed out that the full court had intended to end the conflict on 25 November, "but unfortunately some magistrates were forced to travel to David [Chiriqui province] to inaugurate some new buildings, but he gave assurance the decision would be made on 26 November because the issue could not wait any longer".

When questioned with respect to the possible measures the Supreme Court could adopt, Lucas Lopez pointed out that it was too premature to determine a decision.

The Supreme Court president explained that "the only thing we are doing is trying to prevent the differences between Cruz and Abad from tarnishing the improvements and the need for changes in some institutions such as the PTJ.

Legislator Replies to Cruz's Accusations

PA2511232092 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Nov 92 p 1

[Article by Irene Hernandez and Hermes Sucre S.]

[Text] Leo Gonzalez, chairman of the Legislative Assembly Drug Affairs Committee, on 24 November said the charges leveled against him by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz "are the product of a sick mind, of a delirious person, such as Noriega was when he was on his way out."

"I think the attorney general is as delirious as Noriega was when he was on his way out and he used this sort of crazy argument to divert the people's attention," Gonzalez added.

He pointed out that Cruz "is a hoodlum involved up to his eyebrows in drug trafficking" who has not yet resigned because he is as "shameless" as followers of the Democratic Revolutionary Party and Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"Cruz is not in his right mind. Thus it is necessary to end this affair swiftly and complete the investigation into the bank accounts linked to drug trafficking and money laundering that were unfrozen," the chairman of the Drug Affairs Committee added.

The legislator noted that Cruz is trying to link him to Ricardo Diaz, alleged intermediary between former prosecutor Carlos Herrera Moran and the mother of a person involved in the murder in March of Japanese businessman Takashi Ota.

Ricardo Diaz testified before Cruz that Gonzalez showed up at the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] to meet with him. "That is why he is sending those lawyers to promise me freedom, protection of my life, and a transfer to Customs Directorate facilities, because I would be better off over there...." Diaz said during his interrogation.

Leo Gonzalez claims the attorney general is trying to link him to a case he knows absolutely nothing about, with the sole purpose of silencing him and preventing him from continuing his investigation.

Cruz said Legislator Leo Gonzalez is serving as a spokesman for Comptroller General Ruben Carles, Magistrate Eusebio Marchosky, Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena, and Attorney Alvin Weeden, because Gonzalez enjoys an immunity "that has practically turned into impunity."

In his appearance before the Legislative Assembly Budget Committee, Cruz pointed out that the confrontation is not with the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, but with a group of officials who are using their political, economic, and media power to escape the reach of the law.

"When justice challenges high political interests it comes out in sad shape because they exert all their power," Attorney General Cruz added.

Cruz on 23 November filed a 25-page report before Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros in which, according to him, he shows his innocence of the charge of unfreezing $38 million, leveled by Legislator Leo Gonzalez.

The attorney general said he has nothing against PTJ Director Jaime Abad. What is actually happening is that "there are very competent political groups trying to twist things around to reap political benefits."

He said that investigations of indicted followers of the previous regime involved the "easy" part of the work done the Public Prosecutor's Office, but difficulties have

multiplied now that the misdeeds of current administration officials are being investigated.

Gonzalez, however, pointed out the suit against Cruz is backed by the evidence needed to remove him from his post and send him to prison.

"I think in the end Cruz will be removed from his post and will probably go to prision, because he is definitely involved up to his eyebrows in drug trafficking," Gonzalez said.

'Alleged' Agent Says Government Hired Bomb Suspect

PA2611202992 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] An alleged undercover Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) agent has said that he has reports that Luis Dominguez, a former member of the 7th Infantry Company "Macho de Monte," was hired by officials of the government to place the bomb that exploded on 6 November at the Attorney General's Office.

Luis Oliveros Polo made these statements before the Attorney General's Office. Last April, Oliveros Polo was arrested on charges of racketeering, but he was later contacted to work as an agent for the PTJ's Operations Planning Office.

The source stated that Dominguez, a former "Macho de Monte" who remains under arrest at the PTJ, told him that he had received a $5,000 advance payment for placing the bomb at the Attorney General's Office.

Public Employees March to Presidential Palace

PA2711013092 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 92 p 2a

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] On 25 November, approximately 3,000 public workers marched to the Presidential Palace to protest what they described as "institutionalized terror" through which the government seeks to "cripple" those popular sectors that are calling for an improvement in the standard of living.

The march, which started in Parque Porras was organized to cover Central Avenue in order to reach the Palace of the Herons. However, the march was intercepted by members of the Municipal Police.

According to the protesters, the march was organized to condemn the fact that the majority of the country's population experiences the most "alarming" levels of poverty. According to one of the organizers, this situation has been the result of the implementation of "unpopular" measures by the government.

Tension among the protesters, who were shouting slogans as well as carrying banners against President Guillermo Endara's administration, increased when approximately 45 Municipal Police members blocked access to Central Avenue.

The protesters shouted insults and threw some rocks at the municipal officials. Municipal Police Chief Nelson Noli informed the protesters that access through Central Avenue was restricted because some construction and remodeling works were currently underway.

Nevertheless, the protesters attempted to break through the barriers that blocked access. After a 20-minute discussion, Xiomara Ambulo, secretary general of the National Federation of Public Employees Union [Fenasep] convinced the protesters that they should instead use Avenue B.

Once they arrived at the Presidential Palace, a 15-person commission was appointed to represent all the unions, and two legal advisers were appointed to speak with Endara.

Argentina

Trafficker Claims Knowledge of Israeli Embassy Blast

PY2611221492 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Nov 92 p 11

[Excerpts] (DYN-NA) A delegation of Radical National deputies arrived yesterday in Brazil to grill the supposed repentant drug trafficker Mario Luis Noguera Vega, who in addition to his accusations against drug czar Alberto Lestelle stated that he knew details of the terrorist attack that devastated the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires last March.

Radical legislators Juan Pablo Baylac, Gaston Ortiz Maldonado and Luis Losada arrived in Brazil a day after two Interior Ministry and Drug Prevention Secretariat (which is led by Lestelle) officials also travelled to Brazil. Noguera Vega accused Lestelle of hiring him to kill or abduct Argentine citizen Sergio di Fiori, an alleged drug trafficker who reportedly is linked to Argentine government officials. Lestelle denies the charges and claims that Noguera Vega is "a dangerous international criminal." [passage omitted]

Noguera Vega in turn told a local radio station he had met members of the People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP), which has claimed responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires. He added that he had told his story to the Drug Prevention Secretariat's chief of security, Ruben Torres.

In relation to the Israeli Embassy strike the allegedly reformed narcotrafficker said that "two months before" the terrorist attack he saw two Palestinians who had been convicted for the 1970 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Paraguay and were released from prison between 1981 and 1982. Noguera Vega stated that he met the men in Foz do Iguazu, Sao Paulo and in the Federal Capital.

Minister Says Condor-II 'Completely Deactivated'

PY2611201092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1856 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Nov (NA)—The government will send technical elements linked with the operation of the Condor-II missile project to Spain in mid-December. The operation will be within the framework of an agreement "to carry out a joint space research project."

The announcement was made by Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez, who hurried to clarify Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella's remarks during a cabinet meeting. Di Tella said on the occasion that "all Condor project technical mechanisms will be deactivated before 15 January."

Upon hearing of Di Tella's remarks Gonzalez reiterated that "the missile is completely deactivated," recalling that "as of 1991 everything related to the Condor-II project, including technology and the Falda del Carmen plant, was placed under the National Aerospace Commission (Conae), which answers to the presidency."

"What happens is that there are negotiations with Spain seeking to carry out a joint space research project and part of the agreement requires that we deliver some elements needed to carry out the project," Gonzalez said, referring to Di Tella's remarks.

The defense minister said the technical elements will be shipped to the Aerospace Technology Institute (Inta) in Spain, adding that "part of the work will be conducted in Spain and part will be conducted in Argentina."

Mercosur Reviewed, Prospects Evaluated

PY2611002792 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Nov 92 Section 3 p 4

[Article by Rosendo Fraga]

[Text] Relations with Brazil were the axis of Argentine foreign policy in 1986 when President Raul Alfonsin signed the Argentine-Brazilian binational integration agreements.

Four years later, in 1990, President Carlos Menem and then-Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo gave form to the integration project known as Mercosur [Common Market of the South] that aimed to integrate a common market made up of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile. After the first talks, Chile decided not to join but Paraguay decided to do it. Finally, in Asuncion in March 1991, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay signed the Mercosur Treaty, which established its full enforcement as of 1 January 1995. It should be recalled that a free zone exists when the member countries have no tariff barriers among them while a common market represents a much greater integration because not only are the tariffs taken off, but the countries must have the same common tariff before the rest of the world.

The Mercosur project has not separated itself from the U.S. strategy to achieve greater commercial integration of the continent. This is how, in June 1990, President Bush launched the "Americas Initiative," which calls for the implementation of a "free zone" from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

The Mercosur developed at the same time as the common market of the north known as NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], or Merconorte, which represents a common market made up of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These initiatives also gave impulse to the Andean Pact, a common market project made up of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Meanwhile, the Central American and Caribbean countries began a similar project.

By 1992, the continental integration project was drawn up based on a "free trade zone" covering the entire continent that includes four common markets. They

correspond to the continent's four subregions (North America, Central America and Caribbean, Andean Pact, and Southern Cone).

The U.S. strategy, which is aimed at selling more in the continent and getting Europe and Japan to lower their tariff barriers at the same time for the American countries' primary products, lies behind the initiatives.

Clinton's victory introduced some changes in the situation. Although the president-elect has ratified the NAFTA and Americas Initiative, it is not clear yet if they will have the same priority given to them by his predecessor.

But the most relevant aspect for Argentina has been the turn made by Brazil since the fall of suspended President Collor de Mello. Collor developed an economic policy in the last two years similar to the Argentine policy, seeking privatization, opening, and deregulation while at the same time agreeing with the policy of putting advanced technology or sensitive technology for eventual military use under international control. The political will shown by Menem and Collor de Mello was decisive for establishing the basis of the Mercosur project.

Nevertheless, a change occurred after Itamar Franco took over as president. Brazil seemed to become inclined toward a more nationalistic policy, ruling out—in the short term—the stabilization of its economy and assuming, as a permanent fact, the control of its double-digit inflation. Within this context, Brazil suspended the privatization program, and Brazilian economic circles are talking by late November about new devaluations, pointing at an improvement in the level of Brazilian exports.

Coincidentally, some clues indicate that a more nationalistic line began to be implemented in the field of foreign policy and that the ratification of the agreements on international control of high technologies might encounter some difficulties in Brazil.

In light of the initial symptoms of this change, during the last week of October the Argentine Government took measures in the field of foreign trade to prevent the trade deficit with Brazil from increasing. While Brazil's goal was to stabilize its economy, which involves a lower exchange rate for Latin American countries, Argentina assumed the trade deficit as a circumstantial fact. Nevertheless, Argentina can no longer maintain the same policy after the neighboring country—with the new president—defined a permanent line of a more populist type.

Therefore, Argentina's and Brazil's economic models, which tried to resemble each other until October, have taken different paths after the change of government.

This new situation raises unavoidable doubts about Mercosur's future because as long as Argentina's and Brazil's economies have asymmetrical characteristics, a common market is unthinkable.

The new situation does not involve a Mercosur failure and its dissolution. It actually involves assuming that the implementation deadlines are being postponed, and the formation of a common market by 1 January 1995 necessarily moves back.

Within this framework, alternative courses of action are beginning to be reviewed. Argentina, Chile, and Mexico are the three Latin American countries that have carried out a transformation of their respective economic structures, a situation that facilitates, compared with the rest of the continent, a larger degree of integration with the developed countries' economies.

Mexico is a NAFTA member, and the possibility that a regional bloc headed by Argentina and Chile and including other countries in the region, like Paraguay and Uruguay, will join the free trade agreement with North America is becoming a matter for review.

The implementation of a new alternative began when President Menem traveled to Mexico in September and proposed to the Mexican president that the Mercosur join NAFTA.

Therefore, Clinton's decisions on the degree of protectionism of the U.S. economy and the possibility for countries in this region to join NAFTA have become the two key points to be monitored vis-a-vis the new U.S. policy.

Drug Official Fears Attack From Traffickers

PY2411202192 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1307 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (TELAM)—Alberto Lestelle, secretary for the prevention of drug abuse and the antinarcotics struggle, warned today that he may be the target of an attack by the "drug mafia" which may be behind the alleged repentant drug trafficker Mario Noguera Vega. Lestelle said that despite this situation he will continue to work against this type of organization "with more energy than ever."

Lestelle did not discard the possibility that the comments made by Noguera Vega, who has dual Paraguayan-Argentine citizenship, are related to the classic mechanism used by the mafia "to get the people out of the way who are struggling to keep drug trafficking under control." Lestelle told Radio Continental that the first two steps of the four the mafia usually uses, the "threat and effort to get him removed by slander," have already been fulfilled.

Lestelle obviously related the slander, although without mentioning it, to the comments made by Noguera Vega in Brazil that he was hired by the secretariat to kidnap or murder Argentine drug trafficker Francisco Sergio di Fiori, and that he was being paid $2,000 a month.

Lestelle added that "when the slander does not work" the mafia uses the third step, which is "bribery." The fourth step includes "attacks" and in the face of this situation he said: "If those who are behind this campaign are listening I would ask them not to waste their time

with the third step. Therefore, they only have the last step left, that is, 'the attack.'"

He then warned: "We will continue to struggle against that scourge with more energy than ever before, without hesitation, because even if they have to pass over the third step in my case, and knowing what the fourth step means, I will continue to work because people trust us, and we are doing the best we can."

Lestelle also categorically denied that Noguera Vega has "repented," but he admitted, however, there are "cases that are credible." He mentioned that his secretariat is working to incorporate repentance in the legislation like in other countries by which an individual "gets a reduced sentence in exchange for information to help dismantle a ring."

In answer to a question Lestelle said that it would be hard to believe that antidrug organizations would secretly murder a known trafficker. He said, however, there are "settling of scores" with the repentant who are sought after "until they are killed."

Asked if having the services of a repentant is "dirty work," Lestelle preferred not to use that term. He explained: "What the security organizations can do is to seek information through people who can help dismantle rings." He admitted that "many operations were successfully carried out by the Federal Police, the Border Police, and the Naval Prefecture based on information provided by those people."

In his latest comments to the press, Noguera Vega said that Lestelle's secretariat carried out espionage on former President Raul Alfonsin, and other politicians. Lestelle labeled this accusation as part of "a series of big plots which can be easily denied, and that in a few days it will be well clarified who sent him to Brazil."

Lestelle reiterated that he does not know Noguera Vega, whom he labeled as "paranoid" based on the psychiatric tests done in the country by forensic doctors. He denied Noguera was paid $2,000 a month.

Lestelle added that Brazil "has the obligation" of protecting Noguera Vega. He indicated that if a similar case occurred in Argentina, "we would do exactly the same. It is the responsibility of the government to watch over the physical well-being of individuals."

Embalse Nuclear Plant Back In Operation

PY2411173692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1440 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Cordoba, 24 Nov (TELAM)—Officials of the Embalse Nuclear Plant have reported that the plant went back into full operation one week ago, and it is now feeding the National Interconnection Service (SIN) after being out of action for 40 days in compliance with the annual inspection and maintenance program.

Officials of the plant, which is located in Embalse de Rio Tercero about 120 km from Cordoba, revealed today that work was carried out in the nuclear and conventional areas, and that the plant was reactivated at 1930 on 17 November.

The tasks were done according to a schedule that included the repair and replacement of components in addition to maintenance.

The officials also explained that different nondestructive techniques were used to take "X-rays" of the plant's different components without affecting them.

The plant's shutdown also served to extract Cobalt 60, a radioisotope produced by the reactor while it produces electricity. This has a wide range of use in medicine, research, and industry.

So far this year the Embalse Nuclear Plant has produced 4,115,234 megawatt/hours during 6,505 work hours.

Brazil

Collor's Request To Disqualify Senators Rejected

PY2711000092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Commentary by Alexandre Garcia]

[Text] Chief Justice Sidney Sanches has turned down a request from the lawyers of removed President Fernando Collor to disqualify 29 senators from voting in the impeachment trial.

Sanches said that under Law No. 1079, which regulates impeachment, only relatives and witnesses may be disqualified. Sanches will, just the same, listen to Alagoas Senator Divaldo Suruagy because Collor's lawyers have claimed that the senator is a declared, obvious enemy of the president. Sanches wants to know whether this enmity will influence the senator's vote or whether he is merely a political adversary.

In turn, Attorney General Aristides Junqueira has answered a question from Collor's lawyers on whether, during an interview with BBC, he actually accused Collor of being involved in a bribery attempt.

Junqueira's answer was simply a transcription of the interview, in which the reporter asked: Was it done on behalf of the president?; Junquera's answer was: No, it was not done on behalf of the president.

Former Minister Testifies in Impeachment Process

PY2711020792 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Former Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira testified today before the special Senate commission responsible for the impeachment process against

suspended President Fernando Collor. The former minister's testimony was quick and added little new information to the case.

Marcilio Marques' testimony developed as expected. His testimony was quick, calm, and included little that was new. The minister's most important information was that a foreign firm cannot operate in Brazil without previous registration. The minister was referring to the Uruguay Operation involving the contract for a $5 million loan with the Alfa Trading firm.

Most of the minister's answers were negative: He did not know Paulo Cesar Farias, he was not aware of any influence peddling in government, and he ignored the Uruguay Operation's details. The former minister assured senators that suspended President Fernando Collor asked him to strictly investigate all corruption reports when he was economy minister:

[Begin Marcilio Margues recording] The president told me in a very sharp and clear manner that the Federal Savings Bank, the Federal Police, and the Central Bank should investigate all facts that might lead to the truth. [end recording]

The special impeachment commission should finish its work tomorrow and vote on Senator Antonio Mariz' report. In the report, Mariz will give an opinion on whether there are indications of malfeasance and will suggest the shelving or the continuation of the impeachment process by the Senate plenum.

Collor Says 'No Evidence' To Incriminate Him

PY2511233692 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Nov 92 p 7

[Interview with suspended President Fernando Collor by journalist Moises Rabinovici at Casa da Dinda library in Brasilia; date not given]

[Text] [Rabinovici] Are you convinced that you will be acquitted if the trial is juridical instead of political?

[Collor] I do not have the slightest doubt about it. Particularly, because I believe the Senate does not want to go down in history as a de facto tribunal, as an inquisition tribunal that presses charges against people without evidence or without paying attention to the contents of the trial documents. What is at stake is the intention of sentencing a citizen to eight years away from public life.

[Rabinovici] Everyone is watching the trial. How can a political trial be avoided?

[Collor] It is not a matter of having everyone read the newspapers or learn about the facts through television. There is a difference between what is reported and what is categorically proven in the trial documents. If a trial could be based on what is published, the judicial branch would be unnecessary. Justice must be set in motion by the citizens. All I want is strict compliance with the laws.

[Rabinovici] The prosecuting office calls you narcissistic and eccentric and insinuates that you did not live at Planalto Palace in order to keep certain meetings private.

[Collor] They say all kinds of things, do they not? I believe imagination has no limits, no borders. My decision to live in my house was motivated by the belief that life in the palace is not very democratic. I believe it would not have been right due to my message, my proposal. It has nothing to do with private meetings. That type of intrigue does nothing for political relations, and it even greatly diminishes the level of political discussions. A high level of discussion in support of the country should be established.

[Rabinovici] Part of the accusation can be described as substantial: telephone calls from the Casa da Dinda to PC [Paulo Cesar Farias], the house garden, the Uruguay Operation ...

[Collor] Regarding the telephone calls here at the house, there is a central telephone run by an operator who transfer the calls to an assistant, who sometimes is getting the calls. There are at least two minutes for each call. But who are the calls from? From employees who work in Alagoas to people who work here because we did the electoral campaign together. There are calls for the cook, for the maid. This is the area involving this episode. Basically, what we can verify by evaluating the accusations made by the attorney general (Aristides Junqueira) is that absolutely everything is in the conditional tense: "It seems that, it is believed that;" everything is based on a supposition. There is no evidence that can incriminate me.

[Rabinovici] Why is it that the original copy of the Uruguay Operation does not appear?

[Collor] My lawyers are dealing with this issue. They are trying to get the original contract, which I am sure will be presented in the process.

[Rabinovici] How is it that the money from the Uruguay Operation got to PC if you said that Claudio Vieira created the operation?

[Collor] What I can say about this is that Claudio Vieira was the person chosen by me to manage my personal finances. He was the PRN [National Reconstruction Party] treasurer. That question was asked and clarified in their testimony (Vieira and PC). I understand the newspaper's concern on some matters, but I do not have the information on hand ...

[Rabinovici] How come almost five months had to pass to say that Claudio Vieira had transferred the money to PC?

[Collor] No major question had yet been asked then on the origin of my resources. For a person who had to get rid of his privacy as I did, I even had to give details on the trash from my house, my accounts, personal things ... I opened everything without restraint. I could have done

that much earlier but my lawyers decided to tell it to the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee]

[Rabinovici] Was the Uruguay Operation not illegal, especially when you are the president of the Republic?

[Collor] Absolutely not. It was made within the legislation in force in the country. Now the Central Bank has new measures to prevent operations like the one done in Uruguay. But when it was created, the legislation allowed it. This is a new rule by the Central Bank. The Central Bank only endorses and authenticates a previous operation.

[Rabinovici] Why is it that the Uruguay Operation does not appear on any income tax declaration? Not yours but of Deputy Paulo Otavio, businessman Luiz Estevao, and Claudio Vieira?

[Collor] Well, Otavio and Estevao are endorsers. Regarding Claudio Vieira, I do not know. He should answer that.

[Rabinovici] How will you pay the Uruguay loan?

[Collor] [laughing] ... It will be paid naturally. The guarantee is the asset I have. The entire loan was not used. I will meet my overall responsibility for the loan. Today, I would not know how to pay it. But I have a term. At the appropriate time I will either repay the loan or reschedule it.

[Rabinovici] Who is paying the expenses of Casa de Dinda and your advisers?

[Collor] What we are doing is a continuation of what we have been doing. Nothing new. I still have resources from the Uruguay Operation. The president's staff continues to operate; the security is provided by the Army, Federal Police, and others but they are all on a temporary status. Some advisers work as volunteers.

[Rabinovici] Has any cause-and-effect relationship already appeared? For example: Does the extortion accusation made by Mercedes-Benz coincide with some favor granted?

[Collor] It is strange ... You talk about the automobile industry, one of the sectors that had their interests challenged. Another one was the cement industry. The trusts. Is that not strange? The overall administrative measures contradicted many interests.

Rosane Collor Reportedly 'Politically Harassed'

PY2711020092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Rosane Collor, wife of removed President Fernando Collor, said in Brasilia that she is being politically harassed. In an exclusive interview with Rede Globo, she defended herself against an accusation of involvement in three crimes.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Miriam Dutra] Do you regret anything you did?

[Collor] When I took over, I believed I could do something for the have-nots. But I could have done the same thing without assuming the functions of LBA [Brazilian Welfare Legion] president.

[Dutra] Concerning the birthday party of your friend Eunice, why didn't you pay for that party with your own money?

[Collor] In 1990, I hosted a birthday party for Eunice Guimaraes here in my house. In 1991, I asked Planalto Palace for authorization to commemorate Eunice Guimaraes' birthday, and also to pay tribute to all members of the national volunteer program. If I had known or if I had imagined that I was doing something wrong or a crime, I obviously would not have done it, and I obviously would have paid for Eunice's party, as I did for the party I hosted here in my house in 1990. [end recording]

Franco Responds to Criticism Against His Government

PY2511235492 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Interim President Itamar Franco responded today to charges that his government has become stagnant and that it is lacking proposals to bring about changes.

Franco stated that every criticism should be specific and practical and should clearly outline ideas for a national reorganization.

Franco also questioned the current notion of modernization, which emphasizes economic development to the detriment of social benefits. He stated that his government is not intended for the powerful, but for poor Brazilians who need government assistance.

Franco added that tomorrow he will discuss the idea of a governability pact with Senate President Mauro Benevides. The meeting will be held after a solemn ceremony in which Congress will pay tribute to the late Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes at 1000 in the Chamber of Deputies' plenary hall.

Highlights of Economic Team's Short-Term Program

PY2711011592 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Nov 92 p 25

["Proposals" included in short-term program prepared by the Brazilian Government's economic team]

[Text] 1. Stable rules. There will be no freeze, shock, or pre-establishment of prices or salaries. The government commits itself to not adopting any measure before discussing it with the Brazilian people.

2. Government-owned banks will follow the same rules of liquidity and solvency applicable to private banks. Banks owned by state governments will be managed by professionals and will not be allowed to grant loans to public institutions.

3. The government pledges to honor its external commitments and to seek to bring its relations with the international financial community back to normal.

4. The government plans to reformulate social security and the housing financing system, to renegotiate the debt of state governments and municipalities, and to restructure the debts of state-owned companies.

5. The housing financing system will consist of two programs: The first one will attend to the needs of low-income people, and the second one, which will not be subsidized, will be earmarked for the middle class.

6. The government agrees to the privatization of some of the banks owned by the federal government. The privatization of these banks will be designed to reduce the federal government's short-term debts.

7. Treasury accounts still managed by the Central Bank, such as those related to foreign debt commitments, will be consolidated.

8. Public bonds that will fall due in two years will be issued. To make these bonds acceptable to the market, they will be pegged to stocks of state-owned companies included in the privatization program.

9. Surpluses obtained through the fiscal reform will be used to reduce the public debt.

10. The government vows to support a salary policy that would restore purchasing power to salaries.

11. Public utility rates will be adjusted initially so they will have, in real terms, the same rates that were in force in September. During a second stage, increases will be based on the costs of each state-owned company.

12. The Senate will have to approve the appointments of members of the board of directors of the Central Bank, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Private Insurance Superintendency. Chairmen and board members will serve for a fixed term.

13. Interest rates will be gradually reduced.

Government Prepares 'Massive' Social Program

PY2611144192 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Nov 92 Section 1 p 6

[Article by Marcelo Mendonca]

[Text] Fearing a possible social explosion hinted at for months, the Itamar Franco administration is preparing a massive social program. Under the coordination of Economy Secretary Dorothea Werneck, each ministry is pulling from its files all projects with two main characteristics: immediate implementation and creation of many jobs for people with low incomes.

It is still impossible to define the exact amount of funds that will be used in this emergency social program because the ministries are still working on it. The projects that will be included in this government program will be those which can generate the largest number of jobs at a relative low price.

The federal government's urgency in implementing this program was also fueled by the many attacks made by those who criticize President Itamar for his administrative lethargy.

With the announcement of a social program of immediate implementation, the government expects to obtain a truce or at least some time to breathe.

The short-term demand must be centered on those works that will not require bids, or whose public bids have already been made. This means that the government will prioritize projects by number of jobs they create at a relatively low cost.

The government's main concern in making this program feasible is precisely the budget restriction at a bad economic moment. This is why the implementation of the plan in different parts of the country will also depend on the financial cooperation that the states and eventually the municipalities may give.

Minister Explains Plan To Fight Inflation

PY2511194492 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Nov 92 Section 1 p 5

[Article by Helcio Zolini from Belo Horizonte]

[Text] As of 1 January 1993, the government will establish bi-monthly readjustments to the minimum salary. This measure will not be final. A new and more structured salary policy will be established with the approval of the fiscal adjustment project, explained Planning Minister Paulo Haddad, in an exclusive interview to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO.

According to the minister, President Itamar Franco will this week announce a policy to fight inflation and changes in the privatization program. The minister declined to give further details on the main points. "We handed over to the president a document with guidelines on economic policy. He said he would study it in Senegal."

Haddad added that freezing utility rates is not the best way to protect wage earners. According to Haddad, "economic growth alone, and the fight against inflation, will help return the net salary to a level adequate for the survival of the worker."

Among the guidelines of the economic policy program Itamar Franco is studying in Senegal, there is the intention to make the Central Bank (BC) "gradually more independent." The BC board would be elected by Congress, and would have a longer term than that of the president of the Republic. The BC would no longer be an institution promoting and granting loans for production and imports, but will only take care of monetary policy "as is the case in the United States and in most European countries."

According to Haddad, "the president's intention was to give the same autonomy immediately." But according to the minister the "significant fiscal and financial crisis" has prevented an immediate change. With that, Haddad said, "the BC will also have a great chance to administer finances independently of the public deficit."

In the interview, Haddad sends a message to businessmen, saying that the government will not grant amnesty to those companies with debts to the Finsocial [Social Investment Fund]. To the contrary, it will collect the real value, with monetary correction. A program to pay the debt in installments will be allowed.

When asked about the possibility of compensating the National Treasury for the resources it provided to cover Finsocial expenses, the minister said: "That is a subject about which we are going to talk later."

Haddad said he disagrees with the idea of the PT [Workers Party] National Executive Board that the Temporary Tax on Financial Transactions [Imposto Provisorio sobre Transacoes Financeiras] must be earmarked for street children. "The main objective is to generate employment opportunities. The additional resources the Treasury will receive with the implementation of the reform must be earmarked for compensatory social programs."

According to the minister, one of those programs could be that of the street children. "We are not going to concentrate on the street children. We are also going to have education and health programs, and for emergency cases we are going to have a welfare policy."

Haddad said that Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] product prices are still lagging behind by 37 percent. "This will have to be updated, without trauma, within the next few weeks."

He considered "hasty" the decision made by BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] Vice President Marcos Vianna to resign in order to suspend the auctioning of Ultrafertil Company. "That company will be privatized within a maximum of 10 days," he said.

The planning minister predicted that inflation rate by the end of the year will be approximately 23 percent. "And we will make that drop become a continuous drop beginning with the fiscal adjustment," he said.

Haddad will leave tomorrow for Argentina. He will preside over the meeting of the Latin American Institute of Economic Thought, of which he is a professor. The planning ministers of other Latin American countries will also participate in the meeting.

Haddad will return to Brazil on Thursday, 26 November. Because of that trip, the minister will probably not attend the meeting on salary policy that will probably be held the day after tomorrow. The date for that meeting has not yet been set definitely, because the government has not been able to reach an agreement with the deputies of the Labor Commission.

Colombia

President Calls Guerrillas 'Third Drug Cartel'

PA2611021592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria on 25 November said that the guerrillas have become Colombia's third drug cartel.

The president made this statement during the opening of the Andean Parliament's sessions on drug trafficking as a worldwide problem. He also pointed out that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] and Army of National Liberation [ELN] guerrillas were the new drug trafficking potentates in Colombia.

Gaviria warned that the guerrillas' lack of a clear ideology has led them to become involved in drug trafficking activities, not only as cocaine producers but also by promoting the new heroin cartel in Colombia:

[Begin Gaviria recording] The guerrillas have become the third drug cartel in Colombia. The participation of the terrorist FARC and ELN guerrillas in drug trafficking has taken different shapes. In some cases, they produce coca leaves and poppy flowers. Since the train of history has left the guerrillas behind and they have lost all ideological or political justification, they seem to want to become Colombia's new drug lords. [end recording]

President Gaviria gave an in-depth explanation of the Colombian authorities' struggle against drug trafficking. He also called for more international cooperation:

[Begin Gaviria recording] Drug trafficking is a 1,000-headed monster. It is not enough for us merely to sever one or several heads. We need collective, international, and multilateral action to eliminate the scourge of drug trafficking once and for all. [end recording]

Guerrillas Continue Attacks in Santa Fe de Bogota

PA2611150892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1426 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 26 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Colombian guerrillas on 26 November destroyed two police posts on the outskirts of Santa Fe de Bogota amid a wave of attacks which started on 25 November with the explosion of 15 bombs in various areas of the country.

The police reported that on the morning of 26 November members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] stormed into Fusagasuga, near the capital, and threw explosive devices at two military units, causing some damage.

Nine other medium-intensity bombs were exploded by rebels on the evening of 25 November and in the early hours of 26 November in Santa Fe de Bogota, injuring two civilians and damaging businesses.

The police added that one of the explosives went off in the restroom of the capital's El Campin Stadium minutes after a soccer game between the Santa Fe de Bogota and Union Magdalena teams had concluded. There were no casualties and only slight damage.

The escalation of attacks also reached the Departments of Quindio and Santander, where the guerrillas threw bombs at three government institutions and a residential area.

In October the CNGSB, which is made up of the country's largest and oldest rebel groups, started a large-scale offensive against the public force and national economy which has produced more than 200 dead, including soldiers, guerrillas, and civilians.

To counter the CNGSB actions President Cesar Gaviria three weeks ago decreed a state of internal disturbance granting legislative powers to the Executive Branch to fight social disturbances.

Congress Limits State of Internal Disturbance

PA2611181592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Report by Adriana Ayala]

[Text] Congress has determined and established limits as to what the military forces may do in the current state of internal disturbance. These forces cannot tap telephone calls under the pretext of the state of internal disturbance, nor can they search a house without a warrant from a public prosecutor.

Despite the state of internal disturbance in the country, Congress established on 24 November that individual rights cannot be violated.

According to an agreement between the government and the Congress, when exceptional measures are in effect, a judge's authorization is needed before a house can be searched or a telephone can be tapped. This is being done considering there will be a greater mobilization of public prosecutors throughout the country.

Government Minister Humberto de la Calle stated that the government will insist on limiting certain individual rights when exceptional measures are in effect. However, this will be done respecting those honored in the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, such as the right to life, personal safety, freedom of worship, and freedom to marry. These rights also include the rights of the child and the family, among others.

[Begin De la Calle recording] Of course, there are some congressmen who want to go beyond the limits. However, I have stated clearly that one must be very careful in these matters, because these exceptional measures, in the future, must not be abused by the government in its actions against terrorist attacks such as those experienced by Colombia. [end recording]

The government insists on controlling information on terrorist or guerrilla activities to avoid subversive propaganda. Congress will vote on the articles for the law on states of emergency on 26 November. The government feels that these articles are a priority.

EL NUEVO SIGLO Publishes Decrees on 22 Nov

Decree on Financial Accounts

PA2611144292 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 22 Nov 92 p 7

[Decree No. 1872 on measures dealing with restrictions on financial accounts issued by President Cesar Gaviria in Santa Fe de Bogota on 21 November]

[Text] The Colombian Government, through Decree No. 1872 issued on 21 November, established more restrictions on the movement of every type of account in the national financial system.

Although the decree is considered as part of the measures aimed at deterring internal disorder, it was not issued based on the declaration of a state of internal disturbance, but on temporary dispositions included in the national constitution.

The text of the decree states as follows:

Through which the activities of the institutions regulated by the Banking Superintendency are hereby intervened.

The President of the Republic of Colombia, exercising constitutional and legal faculties, especially those conferred by transitory Article 50 of the Political Constitution, and considering that:

The activities undertaken by institutions subject to controls and supervision of the Banking Superintendency are of public interest;

It is the duty of all citizens to report to the appropriate authorities all punishable acts they may be aware of, and of which an investigation may be officially initiated. In general, it is the duty of all citizens to cooperate toward ensuring the efficient operation of justice administration;

Resources or funds originating from criminal activities may be funneled by utilizing the operations carried out by the institutions subject to regulation and supervision of the Banking Superintendency;

The practice of "banking reserves" should not be construed as a protection for criminal or abusive conduct, contrary to the good faith that should oversee commercial operations. Neither should it serve to conceal information that may facilitate the duty of administering justice;

It is necessary to prevent situations that may result in the loss of public trust in the financial system, if the institutions that are part of said system may happen to be involved, or their participation may be determined, in the use, management, misuse, or investment of funds originating from criminal activities.

Decrees:

Article 1: Obligation To Control Criminal Activities. The institutions subject to the control and supervision of the Banking Superintendency, will be obligated to adopt sufficient and appropriate control measures, aimed at avoiding their utilization as instruments to conceal, use, invest, or misuse funds or other assets originating from criminal activities while carrying out their operations, or to give the appearance of legality to criminal activities, or to the transactions and funds connected to said criminal activities.

Article 2. Control Mechanisms. To make the previous article effective, these institutions must adopt mechanisms and rules of conduct to be observed by their legal representatives, directors, administrators, and employees. These are aimed at the following:
a) To fully understand the economic activities of their customers, the size and basic characteristics of the transactions that are normally involved, and in particular, those in which any type of cash deposits are made in time deposits or in savings accounts, or those that deposit assets in a trust, establish a trust fund, or deposit in a safety deposit box.
b) Establish the frequency, volume, and characteristics of the customers' financial transactions.
c) Determine that the volume and movement of the clients' funds are in keeping with their economic activity.
d) Report immediately and adequately to the Attorney General's Office, or to the special judicial police appointed by the Attorney General's Office, any valid information on the management of funds if the amount and characteristics are not in keeping with the customers' economic activity. This includes, customers' transactions that by their number or the nature of the operation, can reasonably lead to the suspicion that these customers are using the institution to transfer, manage, make use of, or invest moneys or resources resulting from criminal activities.
e) Any other objectives pointed out by the national government.
Paragraph 1. In order to implement the control mechanisms dealt with in this article, the institutions under scrutiny must design and enforce specific procedures and appoint employees who will be made responsible for the verification and adequate compliance of said procedures.
Paragraph 2. The institutions and their employees cannot disclose to the persons who have carried out or who attempt to carry out suspicious operations, that they have reported these to the Attorney General's Office; moreover, they must keep said information confidential.

Article 3. Scope and Extent of the Control. The control and audit mechanisms dealt with in the previous article will only be applied to transactions, operations, or balances with sums that are greater than what is established as reasonable and sufficient. These sums will be established in the mechanism that each institution adopts, taking into account the line of business the customer is engaged in, the scope of its network, the procedures to select customers, the market for its products, the operating capacity, and the level of technological development.

Article 4. Adoption of Control Mechanisms. The control and audit mechanisms that the institutions adopt should be reported to the Banking Superintendency at the latest on 30 December 1992. This organization can, at any time, inform the institution when it considers the adopted mechanisms are not adequate for the goals stated in the second article. Subsequently, the corresponding adjustments are to be made. Any change in the mechanisms adopted should be reported to the Banking Superintendency to evaluate its adaptation to the goals indicated.

Article 5. Sanctions. Failure to fulfill the arrangements stated in the previous articles with regard to not adopting or applying control mechanisms will result in the imposition of pertinent administrative sanctions without affecting the pertinent criminal consequences.

Article 6. Cash Transactions. The entire financial institution must establish in a form especially designed for that purpose, all information regarding the cash transactions it conducts in national or foreign currency, when the amount of the transaction surpasses the amounts periodically established by the Banking Superintendency.

These forms must contain at least:
a) The identification, signature, and address of the person who physically conducts the transaction.
b) The identity and address of the individual on whose behalf the transaction is conducted.
c) The identity of the beneficiary or recipient of the transaction, if that person exists.

d) The identity of the account affected by the transaction, if it exists.
e) The type of transaction involved (deposits, withdrawals, check collection, purchase of checks or certificates, cashiers checks or orders for payments, transferences, etc.)
f) The identification of the financial institution where the transaction is conducted.
g) The date, place, hour, and amount of the transaction.

Multiple cash transactions in national as well as foreign currency, which together surpass a certain amount, will be considered one transaction if they are conducted by or on behalf of a given individual during the day or any other deadline established by the Banking Superintendency.

Transactions conducted between financial institutions subject to control and surveillance will not require special registration.

Paragraph [no number as published]: All financial institutions must periodically report to the Banking Superintendency the number of cash transactions described in this article which it conducted and their geographic location in accordance with the instructions issued by the superintendency.

Article 7. Secrecy. Financial institutions will only be obligated to supply information obtained during the development of the mechanisms established in the previous articles when they are requested by the regional or sectional directors of the Office of the Prosecutor General, who are authorized to request such information during preliminary investigations, either directly or through the institutions that function as the judicial police exclusively for the investigation of crimes within the competency of the regional jurisdiction.

The authorities who are aware of the information and documents referred to in the previous articles must keep them secret.

Article 8. Articles 1 through 7 of this decree are to be incorporated as Chapter VI of Title I of Part Five of Book I of the Financial System's Organic Law under the heading: Of the Prevention of Criminal Activities, under the following numbers respectively: 1.5.1.6.1., 1.5.1.6.2., 1.5.1.6.3., 1.5.1.6.4., 1.5.1.6.5., 1.5.1.6.6., and 1.5.1.6.7.

Article 9. Extension to Institutions Guarded by the Superintendency of Securities. The duties discussed in Articles 1 through 5 and 7 of this decree will also apply to commissioned and administrative stock companies that manage investment funds, in whose cases the Superintendency of Securities will be endowed with the powers that those articles bestow on the Banking Superintendency.

In the case of stock market commission agents, the control mechanisms dealt with in this decree can be adopted through the respective Securities Markets without affecting the arrangements in Article 5.

Article 10. This decree goes into effect as of 1 December 1992.

Be it published and executed.

Decree on Property Use, Attachment

PA2611192592 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 22 Nov 92 p 9

[Decree No. 1874 on measures dealing with the use of property and attachment, issued by President Cesar Gaviria in Santa Fe de Bogota on 20 November]

[Text]

Decree 1874. More Compensation.

Whereby norms on the use of property and attachment, pertaining to offenses under the authority of regional judges are issued.

The president of the Republic of Colombia,

Exercising the authority conferred upon him by Article 213 of the Political Constitution, in light of the provisions established by Decree 1793 of 1992, and
Whereas:
Through Decree 1793 of 8 November 1992 the state of internal disturbance was declared throughout the national territory and was based, among other things, on the following considerations:

That in the last few weeks, the public order situation in the country, which had been affected for some time, has significantly worsened given the terrorist actions of guerrilla groups and organized crime.

That in order to finance and further their criminal activities, guerrilla groups have obtained large economic resources through various illegal means, which, according to intelligence reports, are being administered and channeled through financial institutions and other institutional mechanisms.

That according to intelligence reports, the actions of guerrilla groups are made possible by organizations created to obtain goods and services that allow them to advance their activities to disrupt public order.

That it is necessary to strengthen the actions of judicial bodies in their task of investigating, accusing, and judging criminal acts, as well as protecting judicial officials and financial direction agencies.

That in addition to intensifying military and police actions, it is necessary to respond to the strategy of guerrilla groups with measures that insure citizens solidarity, cut off the flow of resources that finance their activities, and prevent them from using the goods they need for their criminal operations.

That in order to confront the aforementioned delicate public order situation, given its origin, nature, and dimension, and prevent—in a timely fashion—the effects from expansion, it is necessary to adopt special measures, which go beyond the ordinary power of police authorities.

That in accordance with the provisions of Article 189, Paragraph 4 of the Political Constitution, it is the duty of the president of the Republic to preserve public order throughout the territory or restore it where it has been disrupted.

Decrees:

Article 1. Attachment and Elimination of the Right of Ownership. When there are signs, from an ongoing investigation, that goods, funds, rights, and other assets come from or are related to crimes under the jurisdiction of regional judges, the Prosecutor General's Office will be able to immediately order the attachment of such assets.

If the assets in question are funds deposited in a financial institution, the government will be able to immediately freeze these funds.

Only an appeal will be accepted against the aforementioned ruling, without affecting their immediate fulfillment.

With regard to main or accessory real rights over these goods, they will be rescinded in favor of the state, in accordance with the procedure established by Article 57 of Decree 099 of 1991, which was permanently turned into law by Decree 2271 of 1991, Article 4.

The attached goods will be administered by the Prosecutor General's Office, except the drug-related goods, which will continue to be administered by the National Narcotics Directorate.

Article 2. Use of Property. He who provides information, details, or a scoop that effectively contributes to the attachment of goods resulting from crimes under the authority of regional judges will be able to receive up to 40 percent of the total value of the property or goods reported, once the elimination of the right of property is issued, in accordance with the Prosecutor General's Office, without affecting other benefits established in the Penal Procedure Code. The remaining value of such goods will be administered by the Prosecutor General's Office, except those drug-related goods, which will continue to be administered by the National Narcotics Directorate.

The benefits established in the aforementioned paragraph will be recognized in the cases established by Article 1 of this decree.

Article 3. Duration. This decree will go into effect on the date of its promulgation. It suspends the provisions that go against it and its duration will be extended for as long as the state of internal disturbance lasts, without affecting the government's ability to extend it, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 213 of the Political Constitution.

Be it known and fulfilled.

Issued in Santa Fe de Bogota on 20 November, 1992.

DAS Confirms Warrant for Cali Cartel Member

PA2711003892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] The Colombian judicial system is getting ready to attack the so-called Cali Cartel.

The Administrative Department of Security [DAS] confirmed on 25 November the existence of an arrest warrant against Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela.

The arrest warrant went into effect in light of the annulment of the 1988 trial of Rodriguez Orejuela. In addition, the Supreme Court of Justice accepted the request from the Public Prosecutor's Office to make the evidence presented during that process valid again. During that trial, Rodriguez Orejuela was exonerated of the drug trafficking charges filed against him.

Among the evidence, there is the testimony of a DEA agent, the evidence of drug trafficking he brought from the District Court of California in the U.S., and the indictment from the grand jury of the Federal Court of New York, which also involves Jose Santacruz Londono.

[Begin recording] [Fernando Britto, DAS director] We have received the corresponding arrest warrants and, as officials of the Judicial Police and as officials who bear the responsibility in these cases, we will undertake the necessary actions to try to fulfill these orders.

[Unidentified reporter] Who are the arrest warrants for?

[Britto] For Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela. [end recording]

Currently there are over nine charges of illegal enrichment, illegal possession of weapons, and drug trafficking pending against Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela and his brother Miguel. All the cases have been processed in Bogota since 25 March 1992, after a decision made by former Justice Minister Fernando Carrillo, who considered that none of the guarantees were necessary for undertaking the investigations in Cali.

Ecuador

Amazon Area 'Incommunicado' Due to Disturbances

PA2611180492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Quito, 26 Nov (EFE)—The Ecuadoran Amazon area is incommunicado on 26 November following violent incidents on 25 November that resulted in several gunshot injuries and the kidnapping of a deputy commander, Major Marcelo Villareal, in a province of Sucumbios.

Telephone communications with Nueva Loja, capital of Sucumbios, were interrupted, an operator of the State-Owned Telecommunications Company has told EFE. She added all transmission channels with the area are out of service.

Local correspondents reported access roads to Puyo, Tena, Nueva Loja, and Zamora, all of them within the Amazonian area, were blocked by demonstrators of the region.

The Ecuadoran Amazonian provinces on 23 November called an indefinite strike to demand that the administration of President Sixto Duran-Ballen reject the official budget bill calling for the elimination of revenues for those provinces.

The protest, which was called by municipal and provincial authorities of the Amazonian region, also stems from a state delay in making payments to the region, which yields 80 percent of the 340,000 barrels of crude oil produced by Ecuador each day.

A Defense Ministry spokesman told EFE on 26 November "there is no new official information on the situation in Nueva Loja," but pointed out the authorities are monitoring the situation.

The incidents that preceded the kidnapping of the deputy commander in Nuevo Loja started when 10,000 demonstrators marched toward and tried to occupy facilities of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise [Petroecuador]. This was prevented by the police and Army, and as a result, there was an undetermined number of gunshot injuries.

Eliseo Azuero, prefect (top provincial authority) of Sucumbios, told the media this strong repression by the public force could have "serious repercussions" because the population is outraged.

Maj. Marcelo Villareal, deputy commander of the 54th Aguarico Battalion, was still being held hostage by demonstrators on the evening of 25 November inside New Lojas' main church, police sources told EFE.

Ecuadoran Army Commander Carlomagno Andrade on the evening of 25 November traveled to the region to "assess" the situation before making a decision, the same police sources reported.

The strikers in the Amazonian area have threatened to dynamite the trans-Ecuadoran pipeline that crosses a large portion of the region and to cut the water supply to the Ecuadoran capital should the government fail to meet their demands.

All Petroecuador facilities and those of other national and foreign companies operating in the Amazonian region were militarized on 23 November to prevent attacks.

Federico Perez, the prefect of Pichincha (province of the Andean region whose capital is Quito), warned that if the Congress approves the government's budget bill, all Ecuadoran provinces will join the strike called by the inhabitants of the Amazonian region.

These provinces had been assigned a percentage of state petroleum revenues until now, but the 1993 budget bill seeks to eliminate this.

In addition to provincial protests, the government is facing a wave of strikes, especially of public servants and students, because of budget cuts and other neoliberal economic measures, including the privatization of some 160 state companies.

Paredes Reaffirms Position on Torricelli Bill

PA2511142092 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes has reaffirmed the government's position on the so-called Torricelli Bill, which was recently approved by the U.S. Congress, and is directed at increasing the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba. The head of Ecuadoran diplomacy said that Ecuador, concurrent with its foreign policy, opposes all measures by which any country in the world would seek to prohibit one sovereign state from carrying out a free trade relationship with another.

Peru

Government Amends 22 Judicial Code Articles

PA2611031792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0106 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The government has amended 22 articles in the Judicial Code. Supreme Court of Justice President Luis Serpa Segura has reported that one of the amendments extends the President of the Supreme Court of Justice's term to 1994 and lowers the minimum age for becoming a nonvoting member on the court.

[Begin recording] [Serpa Segura] More than once we have said the evaluation of judicial officials was the beginning of bringing morality to the Judicial Branch. We have completed the assessment of magistrates. Now we will move to other areas. We have other goals to reach. But we could not attain these goals without an instrument such as this one, which facilitates our work so the administration of justice can be efficient and modern and can reach the neediest circles in a timely manner.

[Unidentified Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Serpa Segura] Let us see. We will surely meet with a number of problems. I do not know what has happened to the new appointments. We do not know whether the new officials are more efficient than the ones who were removed. Much remains to be done. So I cannot say in which year we will complete the work because we are just beginning to determine what we need and how to address the problems.

[Reporter] What about the change of the magistrates?

[Serpa Segura] There must be change. No one is tied to the position. I am at the country's service. I will stay only as long as determined by the mandate given to me by law. I have no other ambition. I only aspire to serve the country.

[Reporter] Has any progress been made on the constitutional amendments?

[Serpa Segura] We are working on that. The commission finished the work and is now putting the final touches on it. They expect to have it ready in one or two weeks.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Serpa Segura] I do not know. I expect their decision, which I must accept it as magistrate. [end recording]

Decree 25,869, which amends 22 articles of the Judicial Branch's Organic Law, was published in EL PERUANO on 25 November. One of the more significant changes is that the Supreme Court of Justice will be formed by 18 nonvoting members, as it has been since 5 April, in contrast with the previous 23. The Supreme Court president will be elected from the current nonvoting members with half plus one of the votes for a term of three years. There is a even the possibility of a second round one month later if there is no majority of votes. The vote will be secret. At the beginning of each year, the Supreme Court president must address a message to the nation, mainly to report on his work and [words indistinct].

The Supreme Court's nonvoting members will be evaluated every five years and this evaluation will not coincide with the general political elections. In addition, Article 244 of the Constitution, referring to the age of the Court's nonvoting members, is amended. These officials must be older than 45. This reduces the current age of 50 years. This is one of the requirements to be appointed as a nonvoting member.

The Council of the Government is to replace the Judicial Branch Executive Council with a voting member and one representative of the Peruvian Bar Association, who will approve the Judicial Branch budget.

The terms of the higher court presidents will also be three years.

100 Prosecutors Tender Resignations

PA2711044192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2259 GMT 26 Nov 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Lima, 26 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 100 Peruvian public prosecutors resigned hours ago as a protest against the evaluation process implemented by the Attorney General's Office and against what they consider a "new interference" of the Executive Branch with the Judicial Branch.

National Magistrates Association President Angel Romero Diaz said the resignation of public prosecutors, including regional and higher court prosecutors, was prompted by an interference from the government, which modified the Judicial Branch's organization code on 25 November.

Following a "self-inflicted coup d'etat" on 5 April, President Alberto Fujimori dissolved congress, saying it was "inoperative," and intervened in the Judicial Branch and Attorney General's Office, charging them with "corruption."

Romero Diaz said approximately 700 magistrates have decided to "boycott" the qualification tests scheduled for Sunday 29 November. The tests will be held at the judicial district offices throughout the country.

A similar attitude has been adopted by the Judicial Branch administrative workers because they consider the measure "illegal and arbitrary," given that magistrates were appointed to their posts after an evaluation.

The public prosecutors' large-scale protest represents a defense of the constitutional guarantees which prevail for Judicial Branch professionals, Romero stated.

"The plan is to remove from the Attorney General's Office all the magistrates who, given their strict abidance by the law, are independent of the government," he added.

Attorney General Blanca Nelida justified the evaluation process saying the Judicial Branch must be "modernized and rendered more efficient," as Fujimori states. "Public prosecutors will be replaced if it is proved they are not morally able to do their job, or if there are any problems with their conduct," Nelida stated, who was appointed by the government.

The 29 November academic test for lawyers working in the Attorney General's Office is similar to the one used for judges and Justice Branch assistants. Their knowledge was not tested; they were only evaluated based on the way they do their job—which is arbitrary," the rebel public prosecutors said.

The Judicial Branch's evaluating commission, presided over by Supreme Court President Luis Serpa Segura, fired 100 higher court alternates, 170 judges, 357 court secretaries, and 45 justices of the peace over the past few months.

The government ratified Serpa to the post the previous day and he will remain in his post until the end of 1994, thus revealing the previous law that specified a one-year term.

The Attorney General's Office published on 26 November the regulations pertaining to the evaluation and selection commission of Attorney General's Office professionals, so as to establish "their level of competence in doctrinaire, legal, jurisprudence, reasoning capacity, and legal logic."

It also approved the regulations concerning the examination of the entire country's administrative personnel so as to reorganize the laws that specify personnel assignements.

Jaime Yoshiyama, leader of the Change 90/New Majority Movement coalition, which won the legislative elections on 22 November, justified on 26 November the Executive Branch meddling in the Judicial Branch.

He said that the measure is part of Peru's modernization process and by doing so he tried to prevent a power vacuum.

Lourdes Flores, leader of the right-wing Popular Christian Party, parliament's number one opposition force, described as "foolish" the modification of this law that rules the Judicial Branch, because this is the task of the Constituent Assembly, which is to be installed on 30 December.

Fujimori Defends Modifications

PA2711030492 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] On 26 November, President Alberto Fujimori defended the Judicial Code articles modified by his government and said the modifications strive to democratize justice. He also justified the extension of the Supreme Court president's term:

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Many people wonder why we have not waited for the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD]. The reorganization process cannot wait. We have replaced persons but we must change mechanisms and structures in the fastest way possible. I am sure it would take several months if this was done through the CCD. In any case, the CCD will have the authority to improve or modify them. There is no obstacle for this. I am sure everyone will understand the benefits of this law.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, there are people who say this is an obvious interference by the Executive Branch in the Judicial Branch's affairs. What is your answer to those who claim this?

[Fujimori] I honestly tell you: I hardly think the Supreme Court could adopt this kind of measure. In fact, I think the cocktails and social events organized to gather votes for the Supreme Court presidency have ended following this measure. The important thing here is that we have adopted the measure and [Supreme Court of Justice President Luis] Serpa has been appointed for the transition period. He is an honest man, a capable professional who has proven his support for the democratization process.

[Reporter] Has the measure increased the number of magistrates removed because they failed to [words indistinct]? Will the measure improve this?

[Fujimori] Well, the improvement will be progressive and we hope the decree issued by the government on 25 November will result in noticeable progress. There is another issue which complements this—the creation of an executive council and a technical management office. The goal is to computerize judicial procedures. We also expect that subjective attitudes when issuing sentences will be reduced to a minimum.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what will happen to all the decrees issued by your emergency and reconstruction government after the CCD is installed?

[Fujimori] Decrees may be modified. Actions carried out in compliance with the decrees are valid—just as has happened in the past. I repeat: All the decrees and laws are subject to revision and improvement. [end recording]

Army Storms Shining Path's Ayacucho Stronghold

PA2711044792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0348 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Lima, 26 Nov (EFE)—Lima's Channel 5 television reported on 26 November that 40 to 50 Shining Path members were killed when the Army, supported by artillery units and helicopters, stormed the group's stronghold in Ayacucho Department, following a 10-day siege. Citing military sources, the television station said three soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

The Shining Path's Viscatan camp is located in a very remote and almost impregnable area in Hunta Province, in northern Ayacucho. Approximately 200 artillery soldiers were flown in by groups to stage the final assault following 10 days of artillery fire and helicopter strafing.

The military sources seized a large amount of weapons, explosives, and ammunition and destroyed tents at the site, Channel 5 reported. It added the Shining Path stronghold had approximately 300 men. The group set up its camp in Viscatan three years ago.

Earlier versions by military sources indicated the members of the Maoist group tried to escape the siege and that a "combing" operation is now underway because of the existence of small camps in the Viscatan area. The fighting in the Ayacucho stronghold involved the first open clash between the military and the Shining Path.

Fujimori Comments on Alleged Coup Plotter

PA2511134892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpts] President Alberto Fujimori has affirmed that in Peru no one is being persecuted. Regarding Julio Vera Gutierrez, a businessman, Fujimori said that his government will not impede Costa Rica from granting him diplomatic asylum.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] I do not understand why Vera Gutierrez has sought asylum. Maybe his conscience is bothering him. In any event, the investigations continue. He must have some reason for making a move before the conclusion of the investigations. We have not reached any conclusion yet.

[Unidentifed reporter] This means that nothing is preventing this gentleman from securing safe-conduct and leaving the country? Have you discussed this with the president of the Council of Ministers?

[Fujimori] We respect the right of asylum and the asylum principle. We will grant him safe-conduct as he has requested. However, if he was involved in the plot, we will request that he testify and, eventually, we would request his extradition. [end recording]

The chief of state said that changes made in the Army can be explained now. One such change involved the commander of the 2d Military Region, General Manuel Obando, who was removed from his post for being involved in the coup attempt.

Regarding agreements signed with Japan at noon, Fujimori said that the Japanese Government has never forsaken Peru, not even after the events of 5 April, the day that marked the beginning of important steps such as the Judiciary Branch reforms, which have not been completed yet, he said.

President Fujimori has affirmed again that he is in favor of moving up the date for the installation of the Constituent Congress to ratify some existing laws and to pass others the nation needs, such as the 1993 budget.

Regarding the Constituent Congress, the president said that the elections have taught the traditional political parties an important lesson:

[Begin Fujimori recording] I advise them to understand the message and to participate, with awareness and support, in the political leadership of the country. [end recording]

Meanwhile, at the Costa Rican Embassy, where Julio Vera Gutierrez is staying after having sought asylum there, no one is saying anything.

The military watch on Andina Television [owned by Julio Vera Gutierrez] was renewed today.

The Costa Rican Embassy has not officially reported on the status of Julio Vera Gutierrez, who sought asylum there in the Costa Rican Consulate, but it became known this afternoon that Costa Rica has granted asylum to the businessman, who reportedly will leave for that country in the next few hours.

We were unable to receive any information at the consulate or at the ambassador's residence. [passage omitted]

This evening President of the Council of Ministers Oscar de la Puente confirmed that Peru has granted safe-conduct to Julio Vera Gutierrez and noted that if it is established that he participated in the foiled coup, his extradition will be requested.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] Once the investigations conclude we will know who is responsible and who are accomplices. We will also establish the degree of involvement in the plot. As I have said, it is not important to know who carried out the coup, but how the coupists were organized.

[Reporter] Vera Gutierrez has said that he is suffering political persecution and this is why he decided to seek asylum.

[De la Puente] The right of asylum must be justified by political persecution, but Vera Gutierrez has repeatedly said that he is awaiting some decisions, that he has not been followed or persecuted. I think that he is speaking of political persecution as a justification for seeking asylum. However, if criminal responsibilities were to be established in the future, I am sure that Costa Rica would respond positively to an extradition request from us. [end recording]

Venezuela

Rebel Officers Initiate Coup Against Government

PY2711120592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1125 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 (EFE)—A coup attempt took place today in Venezuela when rebel military officers appeared on two television channels and announced the creation of a "patriotic junta" and a "new emergency government."

Shortly afterward, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez announced that the coup attempt had failed, although the rebels still control an Army garrison.

A government spokesman also announced that the situation "is under control."

The coup attempt was carried out by the military officers who failed to overthrow President Perez last 4 February.

The so-called Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement 200, MRB 200, [Movimiento Bolivariano Revolucionario 200], headed by Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, several times appealed on television for the Armed Forces and civilians to join their cause.

At 0600 (1000 GMT), Chavez appeared on the public television channel and, in an apparently recorded speech, said that a "new emergency government" will soon address the country.

Soon afterward sporadic cannon fire and gun shots were heard while military airplanes flew at low altitude over Caracas.

The troops loyal to Perez mobilized to counter the rebels.

Neither President Perez nor any civilian or military government member made statements about the fact at the beginning.

Social Christian Senator Eudoro Gonzalez, from the opposition—who has been the only politician to make statements—said on a radio program that Perez was in Miraflores Palace (government seat), in downtown Caracas, but that he had not contacted any political leaders.

Other sources nonetheless said he had contacted Spanish chief of state Felipe Gonzalez and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria.

According to unconfirmed reports, Chavez was in a prison some 40 km from Caracas and the main leaders of the coupist MBR 200 Movement are also in prison.

Some civilians appeared on the state-owned Channel 8 television station calling on the people to join what they called a civilian-military movement, while the national anthem was played continually.

The situation is very confusing and, while starting activities early this morning, the people of Caracas hastily returned to their homes, especially when they heard the cannon fire and military planes were seen in the air. In some places in the capital, the people started banging pots and pans, while drivers blew the horns of their vehicles in an apparent expression of disagreement with the coup.

According to Chavez, his followers are in control of the country. Nothing is known about the real situation, however, not just in Caracas by also throughout Venezuela.

Radio stations are trying to follow their normal programming and even continue broadcasting the electoral campaigns for the regional elections scheduled for Sunday, 6 December.

Another officer, wearing a combat uniform and with a several-day-old beard, said that the MBR 200 was taking action "to save the fatherland."

Approximately an hour after the rebels started the operations, the impression was that Channel 8, the rebel's main publicity center, was being jammed.

Shooting Reported Throughout Caracas

PY2711121492 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1115 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (AFP-NA)— Shooting and heavy-weapon fire was heard at 1038 GMT (0638 local time) on 27 November throughout Caracas and two F-16 airplanes were flying over the Venezuelan capital after the 4 February coupists announced a new rising.

The state-owned Venezolana de Television channel was in the hands of the coupists, periodically broadcasting messages of their leader, Army Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, who announced the establishment of a Bolivarian Patriotic Board [Junta Patriotica Bolivariana].

In a recorded message, in which he appears flanked by two civilians, Chavez's comrade, Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Arias, also called for a popular uprising.

Radio Rumbos reported shooting in areas close to Miraflores presidential palace in downtown Caracas and in Fuerte Tiuna del Suroeste, the main military garrison, while other radio station reports indicated that occasional shooting was heard in the populous La Vega District in western Caracas.

AFP reporters also heard shooting and heavy-weapons fire in eastern Caracas near the Francisco Miranda Air Force base and La Casona presidential residence.

Radio Caracas reported that the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP) headquarters were also seized.

Considering the possibility of widespread violence, the radio stations called on people to stay home.

An AFP reporter heard pot banging in the Parque Central District skyscrapers in downtown Caracas.

President Delivers Message on 'Failed' Coup

LD2711123792 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1134 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpts] In a first message to the nation President of Venezuela Carlos Andres Perez has said that the attempted coup d'etat has failed:

[Begin Perez recording] This is the president of Venezuela speaking. Early this morning there was a subversive attempt led by the groups and civilian extremists of the Red Flag [Bandera Roja] and the so-called Revolutionary Movement, which carried out the coup attempt on 4 February.

In the military field, they have taken an airbase and have managed to get a number of aircraft off the ground. The forces of the Army are operating normally and trying to bring under control the pockets of rebels.

In Caracas, the extremists seized the technical post from where the television signals are broadcast and from there they transmitted a subversive message. In a few minutes, we will retake the place from where they are broadcasting. It is certain everything will be brought fully under control. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Carlos Andres Perez says he has already spoken to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whom he briefed on the coup attempt and the situation in Venezuela. The Venezuelan president told Felipe Gonzalez he would be attending the Rio Group summit next month in Argentina to demonstrate that the situation is under control.

The Spanish prime minister left the cabinet meeting for a few minutes to speak on the telephone to President Carlos Andres Perez. Prime Minister Gonzalez expressed to Carlos Andres Perez the support of the Spanish people and the desire for a prompt resolution of the situation. [passage omitted]

'Rebels' Control Airbase Barracks

LD2711122692 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] In a message to the nation the president of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, said that the coup attempt staged by the military rebels who had already tried to mount one on 4 February has failed, although he confirms that they still control a barracks—more details on this from Frank Sevilla:

In spite of the control of the situation by President Carlos Andres Perez, the rebels are still holding an airbase in Maracay. However, the Venezuelan president has said that the coupists will be disloged shortly from this base. [passage omitted]

Two Soldiers Killed Near Presidential Palace

PA2711122592 Paris AFP in Spanish 1136 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (AFP)—At least two soldiers were killed in clashes near the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas. An AFP photographer has confirmed the Presidential Palace is under the control of President Carlos Andres Perez' honor guard.

The state television channel, however, remains under the control of the rebel military officers, which launched a coup attempt early on the morning on 27 November. Clashes were also reported in the vicinity of the La Casona, the president's residence, and the La Carlota military airport.

Planes dropped some bombs and fired machine guns at La Carlota, according to residents.

One Land, Four Air Units Reportedly Involved

PA2711124292 Paris AFP in Spanish 1140 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (AFP)—Venezuelan Christian Democratic leader Eduardo Fernandez, president of Christian Democrat International, stated one land and four air units rebelled on the morning of 27 November, while adding that the majority of the Armed Forces "are loyal to democracy."

In a statement for Radio Rumbos, Fernandez said the rebellious land unit is located in La Victoria, 50 km west of Caracas. Fernandez, however, did not specify which Air Force units are taking part in the coup attempt.

Air Force General Ivan Jimenez is the defense minister. Fernandez made this statement at 1100 GMT (0700 local). Half an hour earlier F-16 planes overflew Caracas and, according to reports from radio stations and residents of the area, fired on the urban La Carlota airport, where Air Force General Headquarters is located.

Planes and helicopters also bombed the operational headquarters of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services political police located at El Helicoide in downtown Caracas.

Things were calm downtown, although radio announcers reported clashes close to the Miraflores Presidential Palace. An AFP reporter said two people were killed in that area.

The coupists have taken over the main installations of the state- owned television channel and have transmitted several messages, even interfering with the other television channels by using the system for joint transmissions.

As of 1116 GMT (0711 local) [times as received], an unidentified rebel is asking the people for support in a message broadcast directly from the state-owned television station.

Rebels Reportedly Bomb Miraflores Palace

PA2711130092 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1242 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas has been bombed. Pay attention, please. Two of the rebel airplanes manned by individuals who are not loyal to constitutional President Carlos Andres Perez are overflying Caracas, and one of them has bombed the civilians who were in the streets at the time.

The 27 November coup attempt began at the military base in Maracay, where the rebels used fighter planes to overfly Caracas. At least three of these rebels are still overflying the Venezuelan capital, machine-gunning or bombing certain locations—as we have just reported. An individual who was just interviewed on Venezuelan television claims the Miraflores Presidential Palace has been bombed. The consequences of this bombing have not yet been determined.

Coup Leader Chavez Delivers Television Message

PA2711131392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Message by Hugo Chavez, leader of the 200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement; date and place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text]...comrades in arms. For now and forever, the 200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement returns to the struggle with the popular banners raised high for the encounter with definite victory. After the glorious 4 February events, Venezuelan men and women exhausted all peaceful means to achieve the unpostponable changes in the organization and leadership of the Venezuelan

state. The entire world witnessed the creative and hopeful deeds of a population that awoke and became aware of its liberating strength.

Nevertheless, a blind leadership, deaf to the people's clamor, continued to act behind the backs of the nation and once again sought to deceive public opinion by using secret pacts contrary to the national interest. Enough of this disgrace, enough of so much treason! The informed men and women, committed to the country's future, have come out now to fight in the streets and roads of Venezuela to recover with our own hands the fatherland's tarnished honor to begin to build a government system that will provide us with the utmost happiness, social security, and political stability—as our highest leader, General Simon Bolivar, the liberator, used to say. That government system is and will always be Bolivarian democracy.

The mistaken defenders of the overthrown government should immediately surrender their weapons and attitudes to join the Bolivarian majority that has seized control of the national destiny. The new emergency government, formed by the Bolivarian Patriotic Junta [Junta Patriotica Bolivariana], will address the nation in a few minutes.

Venezuelan people, we ask for your support for the Patriotic Junta. Today is a day of national rejoicing, today is a day for Venezuelan celebration. Decorate your doors and windows with the tricolor of hope. Let men and women join together to fill streets and squares of the fatherland to celebrate the people's victory and to invite the civilized world at the close of the 20th century To follow again the example of Caracas.

Perez Interviewed, Calls Situation 'Alarming'

PA2711131492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1102 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez by unidentified station announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] At 0702, we greet Carlos Andres Perez, the constitutional president of the Republic of Venezuela. Good morning, Mr. President.

[Perez] Good morning.

[Announcer] You are being heard by the peoples of America, by democratic and free peoples through Caracol.

[Perez] Thank you very much. I thank Caracol for its democratic solidarity.

[Announcer] How are you at this moment, how are your spirits?

[Perez] The situation is alarming because technically the subversive group—the same group involved in the 4 February coup—has taken over the technical facilities of the television channels and has been transmitting from there.

[Announcer] Where are you at this moment?

[Perez] I am at Miraflores Palace, in my office, from where I am handling the situation. Everything is perfectly normal in the Army and the other military forces, including the Navy. There is a small rebellious group in the Air Force, where a small group of rebel officers managed to occupy the El Libertador Air Base.

[Announcer] Are the aircraft that have been seen overflying Caracas during the past few hours loyal to the government?

[Perez] The three airplanes that overflew Caracas are not loyal to the government but are already being controlled by F-16 squadrons.

[Announcer] Was there any bombing or shooting from the planes?

[Perez] Absolutely not [words indistinct] no reports of anyone killed or hurt, and we are taking control of all the points that were taken over by the rebels. I want to mention that this is a movement of extremists, just as the 4 February action was done under cover. It is clear now that the Red Flag and Third Path [Tercer Camino]—two movements that were left over from the extremist subversion [words indistinct] are leading this movement, with the group of military officers that headed the 4 February action. The situation is totally under control throughout the country. There have been no incidents in the interior of the country.

[Announcer] What is the situation in Caracas at this moment, Mr. President?

[Perez] The situation is absolutely calm in Caracas.

[Announcer] Are the people supporting your government?

[Perez] Yes, everybody is working normally, there is no reason for alarm.

[Announcer] Is there any military operation near El Avila?

[Perez] The Armed Forces are in action, first of all, to control the rebel points.

[Announcer] Is there any specific operation at the base?

[Perez] One of the officers implicated in the 4 February coup, who had been discharged and released from jail, tried to take command of a battalion at Fort Tiuna, but was immediately arrested by the officers and soldiers.

[Announcer] Mr. President, where were you when you received the news, at La Casona or at Miraflores Palace?

[Perez] At Miraflores Palace. A few days ago we received intelligence reports about this movement headed by extremist groups.

[Announcer] Will you cancel your trip to Argentina or will you go ahead with your travel plans?

[Perez] There is no reason to cancel it.

[Announcer] Have you been in contact with Colombian and Argentine Presidents Cesar Gaviria and Carlos Menem, respectively?

[Perez] President Gaviria called me early on 27 November and I gave him the same information I have just given you. He expressed his solidarity. I also received a call from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. I did not talk directly with Argentine President Menem, but I sent him greetings through the radio. In sum, there is nothing to be concerned about right now. Unfortunately, the problem with television has created this international alarm.

[Announcer] Do you think the problem with television will soon be under control?

[Perez] I am sure it will be, it should be by now. The problem is that television signals come from [word indistinct] places. I will soon speak on one of the television channels.

[Announcer] What percentage of the Venezuelan Air Force would be supporting the rebels?

[Perez] No, there is no percentage [words indistinct].

[Announcer] What punishment will the coupists receive?

[Perez] Naturally, the punishment that all criminals should get in a democracy.

[Announcer] Will elections still be held on 6 December?

[Perez] Yes, nothing has changed here, and nothing will change; I can assure you of that.

[Announcer] Are you afraid that there could be a rebel movement within the military forces that has not been fully detected?

[Perez] No, these are remnants who will be quickly subdued.

[Announcer] Could this have an effect on the debates on the possibility of reducing your constitutional mandate?

[Perez] No, no, no. That's all over.

[Announcer] Mr. President, did you expect this new coup attempt?

[Perez] Yes, of course. We have maintained the situation under intelligence control.

[Announcer] Is Colonel Hugo Chavez in jail?

[Perez] Yes, he is still in jail.

[Announcer] How could Chavez send a message from jail on 27 November?

[Perez] That cassette was recorded beforehand. As you can see, the message was confusing, it mentioned the eight nation plan and other things. It is an old cassette.

[Announcer] Were the individuals who occupied the television transmitter arrested or are they still free?

[Perez] As you know, those television signals are transmitted from [word indistinct] places.

[Announcer] Did those persons manage to flee or are they under arrest?

[Perez] I do not know. The Armed Forces are currently conducting an operation to take over those facilities.

[Announcer] Mr. President, could you please tell us if the Maracay base is totally controlled by forces loyal to your government?

[Perez] The forces in Maracay are completely loyal to the government, but the air base is in hands of the rebel group.

[Announcer] Do you think this was the last attempt by the rebels?

[Perez] Definitely, this will have no great significance, although it has caused a situation of unrest that worries us and harms the country's image. I do not foresee any problems. On the contrary, this will finally convince all Venezuelans that we must create a united front against these subversive attempts [words indistinct].

[Announcer] Will you adopt measures such as suspending constitutional rights?

[Perez] I have not thought of that yet.

[Announcer] Do you think the OAS or the Rio Group could be a good forum to condemn this type of....

[Perez, interrupting] For the time being, I do not think this is necessary. I know I will receive expressions of solidarity from all countries.

[Announcer] President Perez: Do you know if violence was used to transmit the cassette over television or was there some complicity inside the television station?

[Perez] No, there was no complicity.

[Reporter] President Perez, the possibility was mentioned... .

[Perez, interrupting] It was a television channel that does not transmit from the same place as the other three channels. I am sorry, I cannot stay on the line any longer. Thank you very much for your call.

[Announcer] Yes, Mr. President. At this time you are being heard in Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela. What is your message to the Venezuelan and Latin American peoples?

[Perez] My message is one of confidence, faith, and firmness in the future of Latin American democracy. These situations should not surprise us, but we should express our indignation. In Latin America, we are still in a process of consolidating democracy. Venezuela, a very

active country, has had to adopt very difficult measures and unfortunately it has been the center of undemocratic and totalitarian actions. We are, however, capable of controlling the situation, and these are historical lessons that will be of great benefit in the future.

[Announcer] Caracol, the radio network of democracy is with you, Mr. President.

[Perez] Thank you very much. Fraternal greetings to the Colombian people and all the American peoples.

[Announcer] We wish you good luck, Mr. President.

Terms Coup as 'Last-ditch Effort'

PA2711135092 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by unidentified reporter in Caracas on 27 November—recorded, monitored in progress]

[Text] [Perez] ...at the helm of the country's destiny. The political parties and all the opinion sectors will support national democracy, which is what I represent at this time and what I will represent until next year's elections have concluded, and I turn power over on inauguration day to the new ruler, elected by the people, for him to take over the destiny of Venezuela. The 6 December [municipal] elections will not be interrupted. Nothing is going to occur.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Perez] This will depend on the circumstances, but up until now there has been no reason to say anything one way or the other.

[Reporter] Mr. President, we would like to know exactly what has happened.

[Perez] I have already explained. This is a movement, a last-ditch attempt by the 4 February movement. Now, however, it has been joined by extremist civilians, who are the intellectual authors of this attempt.

[Reporter] Is everything already entirely under control?

[Perez] I cannot say that everything is under control, but I can say that there is very little that is out of control. The situation at all Army bases is normal; the bases are solidly backing Venezuelan democracy. El Libertador base in Maracay is the only base that is maintaining a subversive position, because its commander was taken by surprise early this morning.

[Reporter] What about the outbreaks of violence here in Caracas?

[Perez] There are no outbreaks of violence anywhere. Everything is calm, and I am sure that all the people of Caracas, and of Venezuela, will know how to respond with loyalty and will again demonstrate on this opportunity, as they did on 4 February, that all Venezuelans want to live in democracy.

[Reporter] There is a lot of confusion because the rebel forces are constantly repeating over television that a government junta has already been appointed.

[Perez] That is where the problem lies; they took over the signal of the three television channels from Los Mecedores. That is all that has occurred. The Army is already proceeding to recover this location, Los Mecedores at (?El Avila).

[Reporter] Have any loyal forces been killed?

[Perez] Not a single one. I repeat: everything is under control and all the garrisons are responding in a worthy fashion to their responsibilities with the country.

[Reporter] There have been reports that two soldiers were killed.

[Perez] I know nothing about that.

Interior Affairs Minister Issues Statement

PA2711135192 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1257 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Statement by Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] As interior affairs minister, and reaffirming the statements by the president of the Republic to the people of Venezuela, I report the rebellion or coup attempt, which once again tried to topple the legitimately established democratic government, is condemned to the most resounding defeat.

This action involves a tiny group of officers, who are allied to extremist civilian forces that are trying to revive the experience of the 1960's at a time when communism has disappeared from the international scene and the USSR has been swept away. They are trying to bring back the past and establish in Venezuela a regime of terror that would not honor public freedom, private property, and not even the right to life.

For this reason, all Venezuelans must react against this movement, which is not quite a military movement. It is an extreme left movement. All citizens must be absolutely aware of this. The Armed Forces have voiced their full solidarity and loyalty. This minority will be controlled soon. We will take away the television channels from them soon. The situation is totally under the control of the national government.

I urge the people of Venezuela to remain calm. I, however, urge you to be on the alert, because the people and Armed Forces would be the first victims should a rebellion of this sort succeed. Let us, then, remain where you now are. We, rulers and government officials, are

fulfilling our duties. So are the Armed Forces of the Republic, and we thus trust all Venezuelans will follow suit.

Foreign Minster Claims Situation 'Normal'

PA2711135792 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1302 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich by Maria Lissette Ramos in Caracas on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] [Ramos] Mr. Minister, what is the current situation?

[Ochoa] Well, as the president has said, the situation is absolutely normal throughout the country. A subversive group took over Los Mecedores hill and a television station, and broadcast a recorded message by Commander Chavez, thus confusing the country and making Venezuela believe that Commander Chavez was leading the operation, when in fact Commander Chavez remains in prison for the unfortunate events of 4 February. It seems that a very small military unit in Maracay rebelled and is now being controlled by the majority of the Armed Forces, which continue to be loyal to the constitutional government.

[Ramos] How many clashes have been reported?

[Ochoa] Apparently there has been no major fighting. The military units are being quickly deployed. As the country can see, the president is controlling the situation from Miraflores Presidential Palace. We have received expressions of support from several governments around the world which unanimously support Venezuelan democracy. I call on the Venezuelan people and the Armed Forces to support the democratic process, which will be clearly expressed during the 6 February [as heard] election. It is unacceptable that a military movement or subversives—instead of military it should be called a subversive movement—to try and interrupt a popular expression such as the 6 February... [pauses] 6 December election.

5 July Movement Urges People To Wage 'Struggle'

PA2711134692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Message by unidentified 5 July Movement spokesman issued on 27 November, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Venezuelan people [words indistinct] to go to the streets to vindicate our struggle, the real struggle that belongs to you, the struggle we have been waging since our first independence. We issue a call to the Armed Forces and the National Guard to lay down their weapons. We have the situation under control in Caracas. It is necessary for the people go into the streets in the rest of the country to obtain their real democracy; to satisfy their needs; and to build the Bolivarian Army for the defense of this new society we have forged, that we want to build, and that we are going to lead on a clear and precise path.

Victory depends on you the Venezuelan people, the Bolivarian Army, and the 5 July Movement. You have the strength to achieve a new society and a new fatherland. Let us not continue surrendering the fatherland. Let us not continue permitting Carlos Andres Perez and his intimate circle to lead this country to bankruptcy, more poverty, and suffering.

All of us must go into the streets with people's weapons—with everything we have—to defend the Bolivarian Movement and the 5 July Movement, and to achieve political power and to build a truly democratic and participatory government. The people have in their hands the dignity of the movement that rose up on 27 November and which continues controlling part of the city of Caracas. We issue a call to the glorious 23 January neighborhood and to all the Venezuelan people to go into the streets and begin to annihilate the corrupt people of this country, to begin to do justice. It is necessary that all the Armed Forces go into the streets, as we have been doing up to now, to obtain absolute control of this state and this fatherland, which we began to achieve on 27 November.

Long live the Bolivarian dreams, long live the dreams of Ezequiel Zamora [19th century Venezuelan general], long live Commander Hugo Chavez Frias [200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement, MBR-200, leader], long live Commander Arias Cardenas [MBR-200 leader], and long live the political prisoners in the San Carlos garrison.

The 5 July Movement bids farewell by giving a glorious embrace to the people, urging them to join the defense of true democracy. With the Army and the people in the streets, we will achieve a new fatherland for the Venezuelans.

Civilians Reportedly Attack Sucre Police

PA2711140192 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1313 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] We have a last minute report. The municipal police in Sucre have also been attacked by a group of insubordinate, rebellious, and subversive civilians who on 27 November issued a message calling for violence. It is important to mention this and request help from the authorities for this group of Venezuelans who have earned support through their daily work in the streets of Sucre municipality.

We reiterate our call to the authorities, the Army, and the National Guard to support this group of the Sucre police, as we understand that the Armed Forces are totally backing the government and democracy. They have demonstrated this, as the 27 November violent incidents have been carried out by a group of rebellious

civilians. We must stress this, as the Armed Forces have not joined the actions, except for three pilots that hijacked the Mirage planes.

Group Contacts AFP, Rebels 'Want To Surrender'

PA2711140292 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1249 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] We have last minutes news. The rebel group that took over the installations of channel 8 at 0430 [0830 GMT] on 27 November have called AFP. Our colleagues have called us with the following information:

The rebel groups want to surrender but, apparently, the National Guard troops who cordoned off Channel 8's installations do not understand their intentions or the rebels have not been able to contact the loyal soldiers to tell them they want to surrender.

I repeat the rebels who took over channel 8 want to surrender and want the National Guard or the loyal forces in the area to allow them to do so. There seems to be no direct communication between the coupists and the loyal troops and apparently several of the rebels have been killed. The coupists want to surrender. We call on the commander of the Armed Forces to allow them to do so. The rebels also request the presence of a district attorney when they end their action.

We urge the people to avoid going to the La Carlota airport area as 500 soldiers and three tanks have been sent there to reestablish control of the air base.

We can confirm that the helicopter airport, where the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services has several offices, has been bombed by rebel pilots flying Bronco aircraft—four of those planes are being used by the coupists. The Sucre municipal police headquarters has also been bombed.

We have no information that contradicts that loyal pilots flying F-16 planes continue to chase and harass the three rebel pilots flying Mirage aircraft, and who have not been able to return to the Libertador air base.

Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez appeared on Televen and publicly told the coupist officers to please avoid bloodshed. He warned the rebel pilots that if they do not surrender, they will be brought down by antiaircraft fire or F-16 missiles.

Rebels Reportedly Attack Military Base in El Cuno

PA2711140792 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1317 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] We have a last minute report. In case the Defense Ministry is unaware of this, the National Guard Detachment in El Cuno—which has transmission facilities—is urgently requesting help, as the base is being attacked by rebel units. I repeat: National Guard members stationed in El Cuno, in El Avila, are requesting urgent help from their superiors to repel an attack from the rebels.

Should this attack be successful, all television transmissions would be in hands of the rebels supposedly headed by Commander Gato. This personage is currently in channel eight, and approximately one hour ago, in a statement for the AFP news agency he said the movement had failed and asked his followers to lay down their weapons.

At this time, there are clashes in El Cuno between the National Guard members in charge of protecting the facilities, including those from where Televen transmits, which are being attacked by rebels. The National Guard is demanding urgent help from the Defense Ministry.

Defense Minister Warns Mirage Pilots

PA2711131992 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1236 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez by Rodolfo Ismilla; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Jimenez] ...entering the Libertador Base. The [word indistinct] commanders are loyal to us. A few Mirage planes are overflying now. They took the Mirages away from here. You should urge them, or air this message, that bloodshed should be avoided. They are prompting us to... [pauses] they are forcing us to fire at the planes and we do not want to do so. If they, however, insist on overflying Caracas, we will be forced to use the anti-aircraft weapons we have in Caracas.

[Ismilla] That was...

[Jimenez] Hello!

[Ismilla] You are on the air, minister.

[Jimenez] Hello!

[Ismilla] Minister, you are on the air.

[Jimenez] Hello!

[Ismilla] You are on the air, minister. All of Venezuela is listening to you.

[Jimenez] Yes, I wish to say this: We have faced the problem we all know about. The situation is under control. The only problem we have at this time is the Libertador Base, where the Army is already...

[Ismilla, interrupting] Acting.

[Jimenez] It is acting, it is entering. They are about to seize the Libertador Base. The pilots who are flying the planes must know the if we are forced, we will have to use anti-antiaircraft weapons. If they continue to overfly Caracas, we will use anti-aircraft artillery. It Is not possible that they should fire indiscriminately at Caracas and threaten the lives of Caracas residents.

[Ismilla] Minister, are you hearing me?

[Jimenez] Yes, perfectly.

[Ismilla] Are you talking about the three Mirage planes the president was referring to?

[Jimenez] Yes, but those Mirage planes were already forced down by the F-16's.

[Ismilla] Where can those Mirage planes land besides the Libertador Air Base.

[Jimenez] They can land in Maiquetia or [word indistinct]. They will, however, be arrested regardless of where they land.

[Ismilla] Let us hope, Mr. Minister, that this willend soon.

[Jimenez] Pardon me?

[Ismilla] Let us hope this ends soon.

[Jimenez] I cannot hear you.

[Ismilla] Let us hope this ends soon.

[Jimenez] I think this will be settled.

[Ismilla] Very well, thank you very much for your telephone call, Mr. Minister.

Loyal Forces Bombing Air Base To Regain Control

PA2711141092 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Here is some last minute news. The confrontation we mentioned in the area of La Carlota air base is under way. Five hundred men and three armored personnel carriers were dispatched 45 minutes ago from Fort Tiuna and are currently trying to control the area of La Carlota air base and the airport. We ask the public to avoid this area. Here is Roberto (Nique) with an updated report:

[Nique] As we announced 15 minutes ago, the bombing of La Carlota air base is under way in an attempt to put down the rebels who installed themselves there at 0430 this morning. We ask the people to avoid the eastern freeway and the vicinity of this military base. In a few minutes, we will have exclusive views of this action.

In (El Cuno) the situation is still the same. The National Guard detachments guarding the radio and television transmitters are being attacked by a group of rebels. The guardsmen continue to issue calls for help to their superiors in Fort Tiuna. We will continue to keep you informed of the developments of this urgent situation.

We repeat: La Carlota air base is currently being bombed by loyal forces to regain control of this air base. Back to the studios.

Police Disperse Demonstrators; Mediation Sought

LD2711142592 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The situation in Venezuela is very confused despite another message from President Carlos Andres Perez saying the coup attempt has been neutralized. The rebels hold part of the Air Force and have bombed the presidential palace. Fighting is taking place around the La Carlota base in the center of Caracas and dozens of people could have died in the clashes which are taking place in different parts of the country. In the Venezuelan capital, the police have used tear gas to break up groups of people demonstrating in support of the coupist Army officers, whose leader, Colonel Hugo Chavez, is in prison following the coup attempt on 4 February. Unconfirmed reports said the rebels had asked for the mediation of the Church in order to give themselves up, but they still controlled the television stations from which they had issued their call for a popular uprising via a recording made by Chavez himself. [passage omitted]

Rebel Planes Continue Bombing Strategic Centers

PA2711143492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1355 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (EFE)—For several hours, the four Bronco airplanes held by the rebels have continued to bomb strategic centers loyal to the government. Columns of smoke are seen rising from various parts of the city.

A loud explosion shook southeastern Caracas as a result of a bomb dropped by the planes on an installation of the political police, the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services.

Amid the great confusion prevailing in the country, the government continues broadcasting over a single channel, Televen, stating that the situation is under control.

Groups of snipers, posted in buildings near police and military installations, have continued to fire at officials loyal to the government.

People Take To Streets in Support of Coupists

PA2711144492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1411 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (EFE)—Many groups of people have taken to the streets of Caracas and other cities in the country carrying flags and shouting slogans in support of the military group that is staging a new coup attempt against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

Amid the great confusion in Caracas, where there are clashes between forces loyal to the government and the rebels, many citizens have taken to the streets to support the coupists.

Venezuelan Government spokesmen have appealed to the people to remain calm and stay in their homes to prevent incidents that would endanger the lives of civilians.

In various areas of Caracas and its outskirts, one can hear the banging of pots in protest against the Perez administration, which is experiencing its second coup attempt after the unsuccessful 4 February action.

Reinforcement Troops Deployed to Caracas

PA2711144392 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1418 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] We have this report just in. Three hundred soldiers from the Armed Forces of Cooperation, stationed at the National Guard school in Los Teques, under the leadership of (Commander Quirino), are headed for Caracas at this moment to reinforce the Armed Forces of Cooperation Region 5 units in the neighborhood of El Paraiso.

OCI Asks Rebels at TV Station to Allow Mediators

PA2711145292 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1413 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] We have just received a call from Angel Zambrano, the minister of the Central Information Office, OCI, to report the following message directed to the rebels entrenched at Channel 8 [Venezolana de Television Network] and to the units deployed outside the station. I repeat, this is an official message from OCI Minister Angel Zambrano, which says that the military hierarchy has issued instructions to the troops deployed around the station to allow two public prosecutors to enter the installations to try to obtain the surrender of the rebels under Commander Gato.

This request was made 90 minutes ago. Instructions already have been given. This is a message for the commander of the military forces that are outside Channel 8, asking him to allow two public prosecutors to enter the installations to try to resolve the situation and obtain the surrender of the rebels. This would permit the entrance of a Sucre District Fire Department ambulance to evacuate at least four injured persons from the Channel 8 installations.

[At 1409 GMT the station reports that the Attorney General's Office has appointed Dr. Elio Batoni and Dr. Manuel Gamez as mediators to try to resolve the situation at Channel 8].

Bronco Plane Downed at La Carlota Airport

PA2711145992 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1435 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] We have a report from La Carlota Air Base. An airplane has just been downed. The pilot was able to eject. We do not know if the aircraft—that is to say the pilot—belongs to the loyal or the rebel forces. Here is a live report from Osvaldo Jaspe.

[Jaspe] In a dramatic fashion here, right in front of us, a Bronco airplane was hit and fell very close to the Air Force General Headquarters. The pilot ejected from the aircraft and parachuted to earth south of La Carlota airport. The airplane was flying very low when it was hit. There is heavy firing at the airport between loyal forces and the rebels of the Bolivarian Movement.

Bronco airplanes continue to fly over the area around La Carlota Air Base and you can hear the shooting aimed against the Bronco planes.

Several News Agencies Unable To Transmit Abroad

PA2711151692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1438 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (EFE)—The international news agencies, REUTERS, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, INTER PRESS SERVICE (IPS), AFP, and ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP), reported on 27 November that their transmissions abroad have been cut.

The spokesmen of these agencies indicated that their news services cannot be sent abroad, because their transmissions through the local telephone system have been suspended.

REUTERS correspondent Alberto Arebalos said the reason for the suspension of transmissions, which began at 1305 GMT, is not known.

The other agencies are in a similar situation. It is not known whether the news services have been suspended on orders of the government or by the action of the rebel groups attempting a military coup against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

It was reported unofficially that it is probable that the rebel group has intercepted the transmission installations of the National Telephone Company of Venezuela (CANTV).

Union Official Says 'Everything' Under Control

PA2711151992 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1320 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] We are accompanied by Gaston Vera, the president of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, CTV. We will hear his report on workers going to their work sites on 27 November.

I first, however, want to reaffirm what Rodolfo [not further identified] has stated: It is very important that the necessary support be given to National Guard members at El Cuno so this media center does not fall in the hands of the small group of rebels who carried out the actions on 27 November. We also call on firemen, paramedics, and Attorney General's Office personnel to go to Channel 8 to support our injured colleagues. We

have received telephone calls from our colleague Jenny Silva, who with much distress has reported the very serious situation. It is very important Attorney General's Office personnel go to Channel 8 to establish the parameters for the surrender of the rebels who took those installations. There are seriously injured media workers in those installations and they require prompt medical attention.

Gaston Vera, the Venezuelan workers have not heeded the rebels' call to violence and for more bloodshed in the country. What information do you have from the workers' unions regarding the 27 November events?

[Vera] First, in the name of the CTV Executive Board, I want to condemn these new actions attempting to destroy Venezuela's democracy. I want to report to Venezuelans that the information we have received from all our regional federations indicates the country is totally and entirely calm. Workers, all over the country, have gone to work. They have not heeded the calls of the rebels who have attempted to get the peoples' support.

In Caracas, several business firms are already working and, once several incidents hindering public transportation are controlled, we will all gradually return to work. I want to emphasize, however, that you can see people walking to work to show their rejection of the new rebel actions against democracy.

We have had permanent contact since 0500 [0900 GMT] with the president of the Republic, the interior minister, and other ministers who are in Miraflores. They have told us the situation is totally under control.

We have received calls from several countries and have, thus, informed the international workers movement that everything is under control and that the CTV is firmly defending the democratic system and will not allow rebels, who do not act in the interest of the Venezuelan people, to triumph in their actions against democracy.

Fighting Continues at La Carlota Airport

PA2711152092 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1422 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Oswaldo Jaspe from La Carlota Airport—live]

[Text] Fighting continues here at La Carlota Airport. A device, which we presume was fired from an armored vehicle, exploded at the southern entrance, near the Cubo Negro Supermarket. People are arriving at the hangar belonging to the Armed Forces of Cooperation aboard a pickup truck like those used for presidential parades. Troops from (La Yamiana) Command have been deployed to the National Guard Command. Troop deployment continues from there to various points. The fighting continues. The (CCP) seized a part of the facilities where (Decu) operates, a (Cal) Automarket, and the Cubo Negro Supermarket. Shots are being fired at the (Europindi) and the (Yamen) Tower.

Bursts of fire can be heard everywhere. They calm down a little only to start again. We are waiting to see whether the plane will take off. We have seen a pickup truck twice approach the plane, which is on the runway near the hangar of the Armed Forces of Cooperation. The pickup truck is leaving the Air Force Command again. Listen to the shots being fired in the area surrounding the plane. Shots are being fired from various parts of La Carlota Airport every time the pickup truck goes near the plane.

The situation is difficult here. We will not tire of warning you—as the Rosas brothers and Cartaya have noted—that you must be careful. You must not use this road because you have no business here; you could be shot and killed.

Clashes in Several Cities Reported

PA2711152392 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1337 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (EFE)—Bronco airplanes manned by rebels have bombed the La Carlota military air base, preventing the takeoff of loyal airplanes and helicopters. Eyewitnesses in the area reported that four Bronco planes dropped bombs on the air base, where there is movement of military tanks and vehicles.

According to radio reports and eyewitnesses, groups of civilians have been looting grocery stores in western Caracas and several prisoners broke out of a jail in the area.

In the 23 January neighborhood, groups of civilians looted grocery stores, in the midst of clashes with the police.

Common criminals at a jail in the area took advantage of the situation to flee, while the policemen are trying to counter snipers who have taken up positions in nearby buildings.

Civilians who took to the streets to support the rebels were dispersed with tear gas bombs.

A National Guard post located in northern Caracas, on El Avila mountain, has issued a call for help because groups of rebels are trying to take over the post.

In southern Caracas, where the headquarters of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, the political police, is located, rebel civilians are clashing with policemen.

In the interior of the country several persons were killed in various incidents.

In Barquisimeto, 360 km west of Caracas, there is fierce fighting between civilians and policemen and it is rumored that several dozen persons have been killed.

According to a radio station in Guarenas, 45 km east of Caracas, the people have taken to the streets to support the rebels.

Clashes between rebels and forces loyal to the government also have been reported in Maracay, 100 km east of Caracas.

Radio Rumbos Condemns Attempt To Shut Down Station

PA2711153492 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1450 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Interview with Radio Rumbos President Andres Serrano by unidentified station announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Attention. Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [Disip] officials are currently entering Radio Rumbos with the purpose of shutting down the station and cutting off our transmissions. Disip officials have just entered the facilities. We have Radio Rumbos President Andres Serrano with us. Andres, what have they told you?

[Serrano] I have just talked with the officials. They identified themselves as Disip officials. They said they had orders to shut down the station. I told them they needed an order from the Transportation and Communications Ministry, which is the only institution authorized to suspend broadcasts.

[Announcer] This makes no sense because we are informing the people about what is going on. If the people do not know what is going on, the situation may become very confusing and needless killings may take place.

[Serrano] We have broadcast President Carlos Andres Perez's statements to the entire country. We have been his spokesmen. The governor of the Federal District was here at Radio Rumbos and he made a call to citizens to continue listening. Radio Rumbos reports have always been truthful. We have informed citizens at all times. We cannot suspend the broadcast without an order from the Transportation and Communications Ministry.

[Announcer] That is not good. The president spoke to the nation in a national network and the lead station was Radio Rumbos. That is why we do not understand the situation. We have just read the U.S. Embassy statement, which condemns the coup attempt. We continue to report.

Interior Minister Orders Radio Rumbos Closure

PA2711154592 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1510 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] An officer from the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [Disip] has just informed us that the orders have been given by Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz himself. The Disip officer said, and I quote: The minister ordered us to destroy the microphones at Radio Rumbos.

Rebels Again Bomb Presidential Palace

LD2711154192 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] In Venezuela, the Miraflores presidential palace, where, according to his statements, President Carlos Andres Perez is located, is again being bombed by rebel forces. The palace is surrounded by troops loyal to the president, and in the adjacent streets fighting is continuing between loyal and putschist civilians, whom the police are trying to disperse.

The leader of the rebels, Colonel Hugo Chavez, has been held at a barracks 300 kms from Caracas since the attempted coup d'etat on 4 February.

For several hours this morning, four Bronco aircraft in the hands of the rebels bombed the strategic centers loyal to the government. Snipers positioned on buildings close to police and military installations have shot at officials loyal to the government. It is thought dozens of people could have been killed in the clashes in different parts of the country. [passage omitted]

Maiquetia Airport Paralyzed; Highway Closed

PA2711154692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1435 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (EFE)—The Maiquetia Airport is virtually paralyzed because there is no arrival of international flights, radio stations have reported.

The Caracas-La Guaira Highway, which links the Venezuelan capital with the central coastline, was closed to vehicular traffic.

Some witnesses reported that La Guaira residents looted produce supply centers and formed long lines to buy basic staples.

Motorists filled their tanks with gasoline at several gas stations.

Civilians and forces loyal to the government clashed in neighborhoods of La Guaira and Maiquetia.

Communications Minister Orders National Network

PA2711155592 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1502 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Interview with Transport and Communications Minister Fernando Martinez Mottola by Arturo Vilar in station studios in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Vilar] We have Transport and Communications Minister Fernando Martinez Mottola with us. He has already reported to the country that all television and radio stations will join a national network so the president and the national government can broadcast all official information. Minister, I understand this measure is aimed at avoiding any distortion of the information.

[Martinez] I currently want to repeat and emphasize that all radio and television stations should have already joined this network. We have issued this order at the Transport and Communications Ministry. This is the signal that should have already been broadcast by all radio and television stations in the country. Any station that is not heeding this order is disobeying the orders of the national government. This decision is not aimed at alarming anyone. We want to reassure the people. The situation is almost totally under control. There are only a few outbreaks of violence, and these are being controlled. We are going to use this signal to release the necessary information to the country. We want to report on the incidents that have taken place and that may take place later. We want to do it responsibly to defend our democratic system, which all Venezuelans have chosen.

[Vilar] That has been Televen's desire ever since we went on the air. We have responsibly reported on what was going on and we asked people to remain calm and not to heed the calls to violence. The Transport and Communications minister has pointed out that all television and radio stations should join this network. I want to ask the minister some questions. I understand the president will soon speak to the nation again. He spoke already very early in the morning. We also want to know about the situation in the rest of the country. We have received numerous phone calls from many Venezuelans concerned about the incidents this morning.

[Martinez] The president will once again address the nation. He has been at the Miraflores Palace. The president has never been in any immediate danger. There have been certain outbreaks of violence in the country that are being controlled by the president and by the Armed Forces, which have remained loyal to the nation and to the democratic system.

Suriname

Army Leader Resigns After Breaking Speech Ban

PM2411123692 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 21 Nov 92 p 1

[Linda Otter report: "Bouterse Resigns After Conflict Over Political Speech"]

[Excerpt] Paramaribo—After consultations with the army leadership on Friday [20 November] Army leader Bouterse resigned his post of commander in chief. He did so because of the uproar which arose in the government and parliament when Bouterse ignored the ban on political speeches in army barracks. President Venetiaan has appointed Commander Graanoogst as acting commander in chief.

In a reaction, Venetiaan said that the situation is very reminiscent of that on the eve of the "Christmas coup" in 1990. On that occasion too Bouterse was seeking a straightforward confrontation with the government. Bouterse tendered his resignation to President Shankar who was said not to have defended him sufficiently against criticism. Shortly after Shankar had accepted the resignation there came a telephone conversation from Bouterse which forced the president and the cabinet to step down.

"I am prepared for anything," Venetiaan said. "You can go to bed today and tomorrow everything can be different," the president said, referring to the possibility of another coup.

Political circles in The Hague received the news of Bouterse's resignation with a mixture of suspicion and enthusiasm. After Friday's cabinet meeting Prime Minister Lubbers said that he thinks Bouterse's departure "excellent." The Foreign Ministry was unwilling to make any substantial comment "as long as there is no definite confirmation that the army leader is indeed stepping down." [passage omitted]

Situation Reported Following Resignation

PM2511170692 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 23 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Linda Otter report: "Under the Surface Things Are Warming Up in Suriname"]

[Text] Paramaribo—At first sight, there seems to be nothing going on in Paramaribo. Members of parliament are debating an economic adjustment program, the media have switched over to everyday reporting. But this is just how things appear; under the surface things are warming up because of the resignation of army leader Bouterse.

In the supermarkets, on the street, in the bars even the economic misery has been forgotten. There is excited discussion about a possible new coup by Bouterse. "It is all very well for America and the Netherlands to talk," one man sighs, "but do you really think that, if people are again shot down by the army, American will come to help us? No. Perhaps there could be a blockade, and we would be left holding the baby. The Netherlands stops development aid, and we sink further into the swamp."

In the past few days, the government has met ceaselessly. Any escalation must be prevented. The 1990 Christmas coup, when Bouterse sent the Shankar government home with a single telephone call, is still fresh in the memory. The government has warned Surinamers not to provoke the army leader.

Yesterday, the New Front government hastily organized a well attended mass meeting at which the four Front parties came out strongly on the side of democracy. There was much waving of colorful party flags, while the Front leaders and President Venetiaan delivered powerful speeches.

"A telephone call is not enough to get rid of this government," Fred Derby, leader of the Surinamese Labor Party, said in a fiery speech. "The government is not alarmed by the attitude of the army leader; we have

seen it too often. The army leadership probably still thinks that they have power in their hands. But they are mistaken."

Venetiaan was also clear: "If Bouterse concludes that he cannot work with the present structures, he must resign." The president appealed for calm above all. "The people have a clear choice to make. We can sink further into the swamp or try to climb out of it."

Venetiaan indicated that he has not changed his mind about the commemoration of the December murders on 8 December. According to the president, the time is not yet ripe in Suriname to bring people to trial. "After 10 years it is impossible not to be aware that 8 December was an evil day. Many people will soon be coming to our country to attend the commemoration and demand invesigations and trials. But we have not yet arrived at that stage."

He added immediately that this does not mean that the book has been closed. "Everyone who was involved at that time must accept that he too can be brought to trial."

Venetiaan called on the people to be vigilant. "Each day could have its evil intentions," he said in his well known poetic manner. Both the government and the and the opposition say that they are not alarmed. Although the parallel with 1990 is constantly being drawn, there are a number of differences.

In comparison with former head of government Shankar, President Venetiaan is is described as a powerful president and is idolized by the people. Despite the strikes of the past few months the political climate can be described as stable, compared with that in 1990. This is due not least to the fact that the Surinamese Labor Party, which is closely allied with the trade unions, is represented in the government. Ties with Netherlands have been reestablished and there is a great chance that there will again be financial support. Both the Netherlands and the United States have declared that when democracy is threatened they are right behind the Surinamese Government.

In addition, Bouterse's power has diminished. The population, which expressed support for Bouterse in the early eighties, has had enough of revolutionary ideals. In the past few years the gulf between rich and poor has simply grown. And in the past few months the enthusiasm for the National Democratic Party has also diminished. This party, which won many votes through the distribution of little presents, has been split by internal rows. Then there is the question of whether Desi Bouterse is still in a position to gather all power to himself. The army leader has said that he will give an explanation for his resignation request on Tuesday [24 November].

There is much speculation about a successor to the army leader, who is currently on leave. It is unclear how long this leave might last. "It could last two weeks or two months," Venetiaan has said. Only when Bouterse's leave is over will the president accept the army leader's resignation.

Meanwhile an intensive search for a replacement is taking place. Defense Minister Gilds has said that the government will reach a properly considered decision. Gilds does not rule out the possibility that the army leadership will consist of several people. Until the government reaches a final decision Ivan Graanoogst, a nephew of Bouterse's who has already been acting commander in chief for years, will fill the post.

On Sunday's Avro [General Broadcasting Association] Radiojournaal program Gilds said that Bouterse has requested to be allowed to step down because of a medal ceremony. Venetiaan is said to have banned Bouterse from decorating soldiers because these had also been involved in coups and the December murders, Gilds said. On Friday [20 November], Bouterse tendered his resignation, after Gilds had banned him from delivering a political speech in the barracks.